Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-170 *1 September 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Official Condemns U.S. 'Propaganda Campaign'

JN0109105795 Baghdad INA in English 1035 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, Sep. 1, INA — Secretary General of the Arab Popular Forces Conference Sa'd Qasim Hammudi has condemned the U.S. aggressive propaganda campaign against Iraq in particular and the Arab nation in general.

Addressing the 5th session of the Democratic Revolutionary Arab Dialogue Forum in Tripoli on Thursday [31 August], Mr Hammudi said that Washington is working to implement the most serious chapter of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq's people, land, approach and leadership.

He confirmed that the Iraqi people and the leadership are determined to deter any aggressive design and plot, stressing that the U.S. long-range missiles, warships and warplanes would never intimidate Iraq.

He called for breaking the oppressive embargo imposed on Iraq by the Arab governments, shedding light on President Saddam Husayn's assertion that [there will be] no additional sacrifice without lifting the embargo.

Islamic Affairs

Islamic World League Condemns Attack on Sarajevo

LD3008141795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mecca, 30 Aug — The general secretariat of the Islamic World League has condemned the new Serb aggression on Sarajevo, the capital of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in which over 120 innocent people were killed or injured.

In a statement released today, a League spokesman said the Serb forces' shelling two days ago was part of a series of horrific criminal acts against innocent people in a city which the United Nations had declared a safe area.

He renewed the League's call to the UN forces to find a solution which will prevent Serb aggression and provide security and safety for the oppressed nationals of Bosnia-Herzegovina everywhere.

He also called on the international community to lift the arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and give it the right to self-defense guaranteed by international organizations to all peoples.

The Islamic World League spokesman also praised Muslims' solidarity with their brethren in Bosnia, and mentioned in particular the solidarity of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as expressed by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, at last Monday's cabinet meeting and in which the Council of Ministers condemned the criminal Serb aggression against Sarajevo.

OIC Contact Group Welcomes Strikes on Bosnian Serbs

LD3108145195 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia welcomed the air raids launched by NATO and the UN Rapid Reaction Force against Serbian positions in Bosnia in response to the massacre perpetrated by the Serbs in Sarajevo last Monday, which killed 37 people.

At a news conference held at the United Nations Palace in Geneva yesterday following a meeting of the ambassadors of the Islamic and international Contact Groups on Bosnia, Mohamed Naser Ben Djeloun Touimi, the Moroccan ambassador to the UN in Geneva, said that the Islamic Contact Group countries had received the news of this operation with satisfaction.

Touimi, in his capacity as representative of the country that is currently chairing the OIC, said that all the ambassadors who attended the meeting agreed that the political solution was the only option that could be bet on in former Yugoslavia. He added that to attain such a solution, it would be important for the international group to demonstrate firm determination to respond to every provocation perpetrated by the Bosnian Serbs.

The Moroccan ambassadors said that following the joint meeting, the Islamic and the international Contact Groups on Bosnia had agreed to continue consultations and exchange information regularly to enable the OIC Contact Group to participate in the international efforts rendered to settle the Bosnian crisis.

Conference Examines Islam in the New World Culture

95LH0220A Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Jun 95 pp supplement 4

[Report by Khalid Salah in Cairo: "95 Scholars Attend Conference Organized by the King Faysal Organization and al-Azhar, Discuss How Islam Is To Face the New World Culture; Shaykh al-Ghazali: 'I Call Upon Muslims To Rebel Against Theology of Idle Labor;' Dr.

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al-Qardawi: 'Islamic Theology Needs To Be Expressed in Plain Language and Rid of Useless Materials'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The world around us is going through political, social, technological, and cultural changes that are far reaching.

These changes may have made it incumbent upon our Islamic world to face an extremely pressing question; namely, how to deal with this new situation? What are the boundaries of our relationship with the world around us in light of these changes, and how do we protect our Arab and Islamic culture from contamination or dilution?

A meeting was organized by the King Faysal Organization, a charitable institution, and the honorable al-Azhar Institution to discuss the topic, "Islam and Arab Culture in the New World."

The King Faysal Organization extended invitations to a select group of contemporary Islamic scholars who in previous years had received the King Faysal Award for service to Islam or for Islamic studies.

Because the question on the table is one that is extremely important, 95 scholars from 28 Islamic countries attended the meeting. Foremost among them were Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, the shaykh of al-Azhar; Prince Khalid al-Faysal, chairman of the King Faysal Award Committee; and 'Ali 'Izzat Bigovitch, the president of Bosnia.

The six studies that were discussed at the meeting were presented by recipients of the King Faysal Award, namely, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi, Dr. Yusuf al-A'zami, Dr. Muhammad Shukri 'Ayyad, Dr. Widad al-Qadi, and Dr. Nasir-al-Din al-Asad.

A brief working paper presented by the president of Bosnia addressed the most salient symptoms of the crisis of the Muslim community. Proceedings at the meeting were recorded by AL-WATAN.

The Islamic Theology Revolution

One issue that was emphasized by Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali and Shaykh Yusuf al-Qardawi was that of the need to reconsider the manner in which Islamic culture is conveyed and the manner in which Islamic theology is studied. Such reconsideration would enable scholars of Islamic theology to stay in step with the variables of the age.

Shaykh al-Ghazali indicated that the need for Islam today was similar to the need for it during the days that preceded the prophet's mission, may God bless him and grant him salvation. The spread of Islam in the past had occurred during an extraordinary time because the body of knowledge and culture presented by the companions of the prophet, may God bless him and grant him salvation, was intelligent and authentic. The knowledge that is being presented now, however, is absurd and nonsensical. The issues that are being set forth now are minor, philosophical, and argumentative issues, but the real, important issues are being ignored. Al-Ghazali wondered in his study about the usefulness of having Muslims continue debating the issue of man's destiny: Is man's destiny predetermined, or is it the product of the choices he makes? Is the term, "the hand of God," to be taken figuratively or literally? Al-Ghazali called upon people to rebel against "such nonsense that looks more like idle labor." He said that religious subjects had to be looked at with a view that is modern. Therefore, Islamic doctrine will have to be rewritten so it could replace those immortal texts, "Al-Mutun," which explain Islamic doctrine and address people in archaic language that differs from that which people use today.

Al-Ghazali added that the old way of studying theology dominated all religious observances and that the "theology of minor issues," like that of chastity, overshadowed the theology of religious observances and social intercourse. He indicated that the theology that deals with management, politics, and economics had disappeared altogether and that it seemed that Islamic theology dealt exclusively with matters of chastity, ritual ablutions, and self-redemption.

Al-Ghazali affirmed that such a narrow view of Islamic knowledge paired illiteracy with the Islamic world, alienating us even further from contemporary issues. Consequently, we are facing the new world without real awareness, even though we claim we are relying on Islamic culture.

Dr. Yusuf al-Qardawi answered the question that Shaykh al-Ghazali had posed at the end of his presentation. That question was: "How can we make Islamic theology accessible and contemporary? How can we make it address the present and anticipate the future?"

Before offering his answer to that question, al-Qardawi made it clear that Islamic theology was an important subject and that it affected Muslims and their culture. He indicated that Islamic theology regulates the lives of Muslim individuals and communities. By relying on the provisions of the canonical law of Islam, it regulates man's relationship to God Almighty and man's relationship to himself, to other individuals, and to his family and community. Islamic theology also relies on the provisions of the canonical laws of Islam to regulate civil relationships between all people.

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Al-Qardawi identified several measures that would have to be applied to the body of religious knowledge so that it could become contemporary and accessible. The most important requirements are using straightforward language and a plain style and avoiding ambiguity and difficult terminology. A body of Islamic knowledge that is contemporary and accessible must address the general public in today's language. The people of this century are not like those who lived three hundred years ago: they do not use the same language, they do not have the same customs, and they do not think the same way. Al-Qardawi called for discarding from our body of religious knowledge assumptions that are no longer relevant to our age, such as provisions about slavery and similar matters. He said, "Today, firms have undergone change. There are firms that are driven by stockholders; there are mutual companies; and there are joint-stock companies. And yet, the jurisprudence we are teaching talks about kinds of firms that are unknown to us. It talks about negotiations [al-mufawadah] firms, agency [al-'inan] firms, and notables [al-wujuh] firms.

Al-Qardawi also called for explanations to persuade believers about a piece of legislation and to reassure them that it would be wise. He said doing that was essential, and he placed emphasis on the need to associate the details in religious provisions with the overall intent of the canonical law. He said it was necessary that we take advantage of everything that has been written about jurisprudence by contemporary reputable scholars and that we publish books for people with different levels of education to cover the cultural diversity of the public. He advocated the use of pictures, graphics, and all possible means of elucidation made available to us by contemporary knowledge.

Al-Qardawi affirmed that making matters easy and smooth in the provisions was a must. He said that doing that was legitimate because it serves people and lightens their burden. It makes Islamic culture more accessible to the minds of contemporary Muslims and that not only makes it easier for Muslims to address other cultures, but it also makes them immune to those cultures.

The West and Islamic History

Another important issue addressed by the gathering of scholars is that which involves many scholars throughout the world who consider Western universities to be the primary authorities in studying Islamic history and all Islamic and Arab subjects. This matter was discussed in the paper that was presented by Dr. Widad al-Qadi who had received the King Faysal Award for Arabic literature in 1994. Dr. Widad al-Qadi affirmed that the phenomenon of Western universities being accepted as authorities on Islamic studies has been extended to include Muslims themselves who have come to accept the authority of Western universities during the past 20 years. She maintained that this matter increases the gravity of the threat to our authentic Islamic culture and that the matter of "duplicate authorities" is threatening to bring about the demise of our authentic Islamic culture in the new world.

Dr. Widad's study outlined the method pursued by the West in studying Islamic subjects and building a foundation for studying them. Islamic studies were incorporated into the established curriculum of study at major institutions of higher learning. Consequently, significant development in those studies became easier. Also, several Islamic studies associations were established for pursuing Islamic studies. Those who were responsible for this scholarly endeavor sought to make these subjects extremely vital by associating them with the issues of the day. They also met the obvious needs of researchers by compiling indices, manuscripts, concordances, and dictionaries. Furthermore, they continued to publish these studies in specialized journals and through major university publishers as well.

Dr. Widad al-Qadi affirmed that, when it comes to studying "our culture and our heritage," two methods should be used to restore the Islamic state to a position of authority. The first method involves "maintaining our confidence in ourselves and in our ability to offer the entire world high-level informative products about this culture. The nation has an abundant number of great scholars who could provide this information, each in his own area of specialization. The second method we can use to restore to the Islamic state its position of authority involves learning from the successful experience of the West. We should take from that experience that which would enable us to strengthen our position as the authority on Islamic culture, on its preservation, and on the appropriate manner in which it is to be presented.

Religion and Culture

Dr. Muhammad Shukri 'Ayyad, who was awarded the King Faysal Award for Arabic literature in 1992, said that previous generations of innovators had labored under the illusion of a possible separation between religion and culture. He called for that illusion to be discarded, pointing out that poets who used to be spokesmen for a tribe had turned into "hired panegyrists." Dr. Shukri noted that a statement that had become widespread said that the "vilest falsehood can be found in the most melodious verse." The extraordinary phenomenon that emerged as a result of that illusion is the contention that our Arab literature had not been affected by the Koran, the Divine Book, as much as it was affected by the cultures of other countries and their major basic works

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of literature. 'Ayyad affirmed that such separation between religion, culture, and the arts stemmed from an improper approach to Western culture. Hence, intellectuals felt that the deeper they delved into Western culture, the farther away they moved from the landmarks of their Arab, Islamic culture.

The attitude toward Western culture caused strife between religious scholars and intellectuals. 'Ayyad called for a reappraisal of culture, literature, poetry, and the arts based on the notion that it is the function of these works to reveal people's hidden feelings and the darkest thoughts that lurk in the evil recesses of their minds. Such a reappraisal would show that culture, literature, poetry, and the arts are not antireligion. Dr. 'Ayyad affirmed that armed with such an understanding of art and religion, we can offer mankind a body of literature that would enlighten them and bestow upon everyone a sense of security and peace.

Misunderstanding

Dr. Nasir-al-Din al-Asad, who was awarded the King Faysal Award for Arabic literature in 1982, affirmed that Arabic culture and what it involves have been misunderstood.

Arabic culture is seen as being dominated by memorizing information and transmitting it to others without applying that information. To see Arabic culture as being restricted to religious, linguistic, and literary subjects and to see it as a culture that excludes the arts, philosophy, and the applied sciences would be to misunderstand that culture. It is also wrong to see Arabic culture as being rigid, static, and unable to develop beyond a certain stage. Dr. al-Asad indicated that such an understanding of Arabic culture followed the periods of cultural decline that Islamic culture went through. Such periods of decline occurred during some ages, including ours.

Al-Asad called for a reconsideration of such an understanding, and he said it was essential. Citing the Koran, the Tradition, and Islamic history he argued that Muslims were the first to break the shackles of the mind and liberate it from misconceptions, illusions, and myths. Al-Asad affirmed that such glory will have to be restored by ensuring that religious texts are understood correctly. He said that we must not confine our reading to the books of our predecessors, and we must not accept the information contained in these books as true without subjecting it to scrutiny and critical examination. Our contemporary thinking must rely on experience and on analyzing and testing ideas because that was part of Islamic culture.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Said To Rule Out Mid-Sep Signing

TA3108143695 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that President Yasir 'Arafat has ruled out the possibility of signing a comprehensive agreement on the transitional stage on 7 September.

A senior Palestinian official source who requested anonymity has said that the ruling out of the signing on this date stems from the divergence in the Palestinian and Israeli positions on Hebron and the prisoners. In response to AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH's question about the remarks by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres following his meeting with Dennis Ross, in which he expressed optimism that an agreement would be signed in Washington on 15 September, the source said: Even this date seems too early.

The Palestinian source denied that matters have reached a dead end, noting that there are reasonable indications that the Israelis may present some positive initiatives to overcome the obstacles of Hebron and the prisoners.

When asked about those indications and whether they are related to President 'Arafat's talks with U.S. coordinator Dennis Ross, the source replied: Maybe.

In a related development, the Palestinian source said that the negotiating groups in Elat are currently engaged in drafting a clearly defined formulation, which as soon as agreement is reached on it with the Israeli side, will be presented to President 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres at an expected meeting between them. No date has been set yet for this meeting. [passage omitted]

Endorses Agreement on Jerusalem

TA0109105895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat sent a letter to the Police Minister's Bureau endorsing the agreements reached between Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal and the PA's Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'] on East Jerusalem. The two agreed that both sides would honor the agreements signed on maintaining the status quo in the city and that the PA would not do anything to violate those agreements. The letter sent from 'Arafat's bureau noted that Shahal promised Abu- 'Ala' to improve the economic lot of Arab residents in Jerusalem and to ease the entry requirements for residents from the territories into the town in order to pray at the holy places.

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'Arafat Briefs U.S., Belgian Delegations on Talks

JN3108163495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with a delegation from the U.S. Senate at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. The delegation includes Senator Arlen Specter and Hank Brown. Discussion dealt with recent developments in the peace process and the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. The two sides discussed obstacles preventing the reaching of a final agreement on implementing the second stage of the Declaration of Principles [DOP]. They also discussed the possibility of reaching an agreement on the second stage of the DOP in September.

President 'Arafat briefed the U.S. delegation on latest developments in the peace process. The two sides discussed Palestinian-U.S. relations and U.S. efforts to achieve progress in the peace process. The president held a luncheon in honor of the guest delegation.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, planning and international development minister, and Finance Minister Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi attended the meeting.

In another development, President 'Arafat received a Belgian delegation representing social and cultural organizations in Belgium at the Presidential office today. The Belgian delegation, headed by Francois (Marteau), aims to hold contacts with Palestinian institutions and societies to examine means of cooperation and coordination to establish joint projects during the next stage.

'Arafat Reportedly Transfers Funds to Hamas

TA0109110395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hebron is in shock. Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat transferred $20,000 in financial aid to a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] institution in the town.

The money was transferred a few days ago to the Young Muslims Association headed by Shaykh Tal'at Sadr, one of the leaders of Hamas' political arm in Hebron, via the Palestinian Sports Ministry.

About a month ago, there were rumors that 'Arafat had transferred funds to several Hamas institutions in order strengthen the moderate wing of the organization and to encourage it to become a legitimate opposition. Nevertheless, it appears that the aid to the Young Muslims Association in Hebron is the PA's first donation to a Hamas linked institution.

'Arafat Departs for Rome; To Meet President, Pope

JN0109070795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland today for Rome on an official visit. He will meet with senior Italian officials, led by the Italian president, and His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

'Arafat will participate in an annual symposium to be held in the Cernobbio resort. A number of world leaders will also take part.

Al-Husayni Wants Council for Jerusalem Activities

TA3108160195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestinian official Faysal al-Husayni today called for the formation of a council that would coordinate the activities of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem and the villages surrounding it. Al-Husayni said such a council was needed to counter what he termed Israel's attempt to create facts on the ground and to isolate the institutions from the rest of the Palestinian people.

Health Ministry To Halt Operations in Jerusalem

TA3108164895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Health Ministry has decided not to conduct any activity on behalf of the Palestinian Authority [PA] in East Jerusalem and guaranteed that its operations will not be financed by the PA. A declaration to this effect was signed this afternoon.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Police Minister Shahal delayed the implementation of the closure orders on the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation and statistics center until next Sunday [3 September]. The representatives of these institutions asked for more time to consider their steps.

Closure Order Reported Canceled

JN0109074795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal has canceled an order to close the Palestinian Health Council in occupied Jerusalem. The council is chaired by Dr. Fathi 'Arafat.

The Health Council had submitted an official protest, proving that it has no links with the Palestinian National Authority.

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Minister Shahal has decided to postpone action to implement an order to close the press office which belongs to our colleague Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, director of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation, and the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics.

PNC Head: No Covenant Amendment Until State

TA0109044795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, head of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has said that the Palestinian National Covenant must not be amended now and should be considered only after a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital is established. Shaykh al-Sa'ih made the remarks to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem by telephone from Amman.

PLO sources say that despite 'Arafat's promise in the Oslo Accords to amend clauses in the covenant calling for the destruction of Israel, it will be very hard for him to implement it. The Palestinian Autonomy council to be elected in the territories may be the body to announce an amendment to the covenant rather than the Palestine National Council.

PBC Chairman Says Israel 'Threatening' Process

JN3108153195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC], has accused the Israeli Government of threatening the peace process through its campaign aimed at closing Palestinian institutions in occupied Jerusalem. Abu-'Ayyash said that Jerusalem is dear to the Palestinian and Arab people and to those who love peace.

The chairman of the PBC said that this issue will not pass unnoticed. He said that he contacted the Israeli police minister's legal adviser through Lawyer Usama al-Sa'di, explaini: g that the Arab Press Office is a private press institution, which he has been managing since before the Oslo agreement.

Abu-'Ayyash stressed that Jerusalem is the eternal capital of Palestine, adding: In case the Israelis decide to open the Jerusalem file, then we know how to respond to them. Abu-'Ayyash rejected Israel's policy aimed at judaizing the holy city by changing its history and demography.

Editorial Says Support for PA Eroding

TA3108165195 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Aug 95 pp 8, 7

[Editorial: "Talks or Maneuvers?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the closure imposed on the self-rule area in Jericho, the question preoccupying the average citizen in the Palestinian street these days is whether the Palestinian Authority [PA] will lose much support if it hands over Palestinians to Israel, especially after those Palestinians were put on trial and sentenced by Palestinian courts. When Israel imposes a siege on the Jericho area, bans its residents from leaving, and prevents Palestinians from entering the area, it practices the hated occupation codes, which we believed had ended — without regrets — after the signing of the Oslo accords. Furthermore, Israel does not understand Arab customs and traditions — namely, if a man enters our home he is safe whether he is Palestinian, Israeli, or Japanese. Despite this, the Palestinians broke those traditions, and two of our sons were tried and sentenced in Palestinian courts. This is because we respect our signature and our commitment to agreements that we regard as prejudicial. We committed ourselves to putting 'Abd-al-Majid Dudin and Rushdi al-Khatib on trial because they spread hostile propaganda that endangers Palestinian national security.

The Palestinian response is clear and logical. It says that when Israel begins to hand over to the PA Israeli settlers who assault and kill Palestinians in broad daylight, then the PA will be ready to reciprocate. An exchange of suspects is usually held between two authorities that sign agreements in this regard. The time has come for Israel to admit that there is an existing PA in Gaza and Jericho and that it must deal with it on the basis of mutual respect. If we demand that the PA hand over everyone that Israel wishes to apprehend, this will mean that the PA has lost its credibility and will seem as if it were serving Israeli interests. This situation is rejected on the official and popular levels. This PA represents the Palestinian people and has come to rule, not carry out Israel's orders. When Israel sobers up, recognizes this authority, and deals with it on an equal footing, many of the complicated problems that the two sides have been unable to resolve despite the passage of some two years since the signing of the Oslo accords will be easily solved. Israel's problem is that it still deals with us with the logic of force and domination and is not ready to open a new page of relations.

Israel cannot continue the policy of closing the territories at its discretion — contravening by this the agreement's text — and at the same time demand that the Palestinians adhere to the accords. Just at the beginning

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of this month the Gaza Strip was closed for several days to prevent a Gaza resident from conducting anti-Israeli acts. This closure was not imposed as a result of convincing reasons, but merely because Israel was suspicious. Is it conceivable for a million people in the Gaza Strip to be subjected to siege and restrictions not because they committed a crime but because Israel is suspicious?

In fact, the Gaza Strip's closure, which was followed by the closure of the Jericho area, cannot be interpreted as other than Israeli pressure on the Palestinians and an attempt to extort more concessions and empty the agreement of its content.

The great majority of the Palestinian people support the Oslo accords, but because of Israel's practices, this support is being eroded. The PA is serious in implementing the agreements and preventing any party from destroying this process. At the same time, however, it is an authority that respects itself and adheres to the people's views. Certainly, it has not come to serve as the people's executioner. This is something that Israel is apparently insisting on.

It is wrong to accuse the Palestinians of protecting terrorists and to claim that the self-rule area has turned into a sanctuary for them.

The real interpretation of this campaign is that the Israeli Government, under pressure from the opposition, wants to avoid implementing the agreements. These are old-new methods: The PA cannot maintain control over the area under its jurisdiction; therefore, the West Bank cannot be handed over to the Palestinians. If this Israeli aim proves to be true, then it is goodbye to peace!

Hamas Says PA Tortured Prisoner to Death in Gaza

NC3108171295 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, Aug 31 (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) on Thursday [31 August] accused Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule authority of torturing to death a Palestinian prisoner.

"Tawfiq Subay Sawarqah's death under torture by agents of 'Arafat's services of repression is not a surprise since they have been legitimized by the Israeli occupation," Hamas said in a statement sent to AFP in Jerusalem.

'Arafat's spokesman Marwan Kanafani late Tuesday announced Sawarqah's death while in a Palestinian prison in Gaza.

Hamas accused the Palestinian Authority [PA] of "being the instrument of bloody torture in the hands of (Israeli Premier) Yitzhaq Rabin and his government."

The statement, also distributed in Damascus, called on human rights groups to denounce "this crime" saying it revealed "the reality of Yasir 'Arafat's authority."

Palestinian sources said Sawarqah, 36, had been held by the security services since August 27 on suspicion of supplying arms to Hamas fighters.

'Arafat launched an inquiry into the death, and two Palestinian police officers have been suspended from duty and are being questioned.

Sawarqah was the fifth Palestinian to die while in police custody since the launch of autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May 1994.

Although the statement did not say Sawarqah was a member of Hamas, it described him a "martyr."

Human rights groups have criticised the Palestinian Authority for its treatment of prisoners.

Al-Rujub Rejects Betzelem Claims of PSS Torture

TA3108141095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Information Ministry convened a news conference in Ramallah at noon in response to the Betzelem report which accused Jibril al-Rujub's Palestinian Preventive Security Service [PSS] of torturing West Bank residents. Yoni Ben-Menahem reports from Ramallah:

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] The Palestinian Authority [PA] was called upon today to defend al-Rujub's PSS. At a news conference convened at the Palestinian Information Ministry's office in Ramallah with the participation of Khalid al-Qidrah, the PA's general prosecutor, and al-Rujub himself, the Palestinians flatly rejected the Betzelem findings that al-Rujub's people tortured Palestinian suspects. Al-Qidrah said the report is full of errors and that even if blunders were made in an interrogation, they would be dealt with in a democratic way. Al-Rujub himself said that the report is politically motivated rather than being concerned with human rights.

There are only three cases in the Betzelem report linked to the PSS, al-Rujub said. The first involves a girl abducted in al-Birah and interrogated under duress by different Palestinian elements. My PSS freed her from detention and rescued her. A racketeer from Nabulus called Tabuk acted in a ruthless way against Palestinians and does not belong to our organization. We are still looking for him in order to arrest him and put

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him on trial. A third case involves the shooting of a Janin resident called Jarbu'a — which we denounce — which was perpetrated by a Fatah Hawk and has nothing to do with the PSS. All the other cases mentioned in the report, al- Rujub said, were invented by Betzelem. I call on the organization, whose previous reports we respect, to reconsider. We honor all human rights organizations, and we are prepared to open our interrogation and detention facilities to them, al-Rujub said. [end recording]

Aide: Plot To 'Liquidate' Hamas Will Not Succeed

MM3108133795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by 'Ali al-Salah: "After Arrest of 30 Members in Gaza, Hamas Official Says: Plot To Liquidate Our Movement Will Not Succeed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, Gaza, AFP — Palestinian police arrested the night before last some 30 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" in Rafah and Khan Yunis south of the Gaza strip. The Palestinian police admitted making the arrests, but did not specify the number of detainees.

This campaign comes the day after Israel's announcement that it had conducted raids in several West Bank cities and arrested some 60 people suspected of being members of Hamas. Israeli soldiers killed two people, alleging they belonged to Hamas, in Hebron, south of the West Bank.

Commenting on this, Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, Hamas representative in Damascus, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat's onslaught and the sentences passed by his authority are aimed at extinguishing the bright candle represented by Hamas.

On whether these arrests come within the context of an organized campaign to deliver a fatal blow to Hamas, a senior Hamas official said that there is a huge, many-sided conspiracy against Hamas and all the forces of good in our nation and people, aiming to silence everyone until the passing of the Zionist-U.S. phase through this unstable period and until delivery of the agreement for so-called peace, which is not peace at all.

Abu-Muhammad said that the fierce onslaught and repressive acts in the occupied West Bank and the arrest campaign staged by the self-rule authority in Gaza and the detention of Hamas leaders and fighters by this authority as well as the arrest of Dr. Musa Abu- Marzuq (head of the movement's Political Bureau) in New York, are proof of this conspiracy whose aim is to eliminate Hamas.

Abu-Muhammad stated that "his movement will remain the spearhead against this Zionist plot, defending right and standing firm, unmoved by all these frantic campaigns." He added that their conspiracies might succeed in diminishing its power and strength, but they will never be able to destroy it. Instead Hamas will continue and become stronger, and its resolve will never soften.

Abu-Muhammad said that "the decision to liquidate Hamas was not taken now, but the day 'Arafat signed the Oslo Agreement. 'Arafat made a commitment to abort the Intifadah and hit the resistance."

It should be pointed out that since the beginning of Palestinian self-rule in May 1994 the Palestinian police has resorted every now and again to conducting arrests in the ranks of the Hamas movement and other organizations opposed to the Palestinian-Israeli agreements, especially after the suicide operations against Israelis. Some 10 days ago, the Palestinian police arrested three Hamas members after a six-hour siege of a Gaza house in which they had taken refuge. The three are accused of plotting to set off a car bomb in Tel Aviv.

The Hamas official reaffirmed that "the provocative actions by the limited self-rule authority will not succeed in dragging Hamas into a Palestinian civil war." He added that Hamas was committed from the beginning and will not be drawn into a war with this authority.

Abu-Muhammad went on to say: "We are determined not to be drawn into a war, because our struggle is not against this authority but against the occupation enemy. We will control our nerves and endure. Our people will bear witness to that, so that they may see how the limited self-rule authority has changed into a tool in the occupation forces' hands."

Poll: 25% of Jerusalemites Support 'Terror' Attacks

TA3108181995 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Here is a piece of disturbing statistics: Approximately one fourth of East Jerusalem's Palestinian population support the continuation of suicide attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad against Israeli targets. This transpires from a public opinion poll conducted by a Palestinian institute called the Jerusalem Media and Communication Center headed by Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib.

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Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports that the poll, which was conducted last week, included approximately 500 Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem. Approximately 63 percent said they would prefer war to life under Israeli occupation.

PFLP-GC Receives Condolences on Bomb Blast

JN0109110595 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1035 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Beirut Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] today received popular and party delegations which came to offer condolences on the martyrdom of hero 'Abdallah Khalaf Abu-al- Mu'tasim and to inquire about the health of struggler Jihad Ahmad Jibril, Abu-Ja'far. These delegations represented: The Palestinian Popular Liberation War Vanguards—al-Sa'iqah Forces, Fatah—the Uprising, [Fatah] the Revolutionary Council, the Palestine Liberation Front, the Popular Committee of Shatila Camp, and the Popular Committee of Burj al-Barajinah Camp.

The Beirut Command of the PFLP-GC also received telephone calls from Hizballah, Islamic Scholars Grouping, and the Syrian Pan-Arab Party.

God is with us. Victory is close. Together we are on the road of liberating land and man.

Fatah Leader Abu-Nidal Reportedly in Iran

JN0109094695 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 1 Sep 95 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources confirmed that Sabri al-Banna, Abu-Nidal, leader of Fatah-The Revolutionary Council movement, is currently staying in the Iranian city of Mashhad. They added that he left Libya several months ago.

The sources said it is not possible Abu-Nidal would be extradited to Western countries seeking his arrest for committing terrorist acts as was the case with the international terrorist Carlos. Carlos was extradited by Sudanese authorities to France to stand trial there for terrorist acts carried out outside France.

The sources noted that Abu-Nidal's status is better than that of Carlos in terms of relations with Arab countries which would be obliged to protect, hide, or accept him in their territories. Carlos, on the other hand, is not an Arab — he is from Latin America. Thus he has no relations with Arab countries that could have protected him or allowed him to stay in their territory.

Brazil Recognizes Palestinian Passport

JN0109075295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brazil announced that it recognizes the passport issued by the Palestinian National Authority. Brazil is the first Latin American nation to recognize the Palestinian passport.

Sources in Brasilia say that all border posts in Brazil have been instructed to allow travelers with Palestinian passports to enter the country without the need for any other documents.

Sources in the Brazilian Foreign Ministry say that the decision is a form of positive response to the progress of the Middle East peace process.

PA, Germany Sign Aid Agreement

JN0109083195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement was signed at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in Ramallah last night in connection with the 1995 program of German aid for the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA]. According to the agreement, Germany will offer 30 million Deutsche marks to implement projects in Gaza and Jericho.

The projects are connected with infrastructure and establishing institutions, as well as technical support and training.

The agreement was signed for the Palestinian side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation; and for Germany by Herbert Zalman, head of the Middle East desk at the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation.

Commentary on 'U.S. Computer,' Conspiracy Against Syria

JN3108195095 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1655 GMT 31 Aug 95

["Political Touch" commentary: "The U.S. Computer"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the U.S. computer is making a mistake. Today, the U.S. computer is afflicted with the plague. Today, the experts of numbers and arithmetic fail not only to diagnose the disease, but also to find a remedy. The U.S. computer touches on taboos and crosses all lines. It tries to send letters, with Syria the addressee. It says things which no one likes. It says things which should have been said in Washington, Tel Aviv, Gaza, or in the capital Amman.

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The U.S. computer is making a mistake because it addresses Damascus. The same computer is also making a big mistake because it knows that Damascus is different from Amman, Gaza, Saddam's Baghdad, the Balkans, and even different from Yeltsin's Moscow. We do not want to go too far in overstatements. We say that what this computer said two days ago — and what was repeated by the Zionist and western propaganda — does not frighten anyone and cannot shake a single hair in a Damascene braid. The letter has arrived, but no one will open it and not a single citizen will read it. The U.S. letter was sent in an envelope, in the envelope it will remain, and it will be returned, with the speed of sound, to the place it came from.

Everybody knows that King Husayn is conspiring against Syria, that Yasir 'Arafat is conspiring against Syria, that Yitzhaq Rabin is conspiring against Syria and that the U.S. computer is doing all the calculations and decisions in this regard. Everybody also knows that these exposed unholy alliances — in addition to those in Saddam's Baghdad — are unifying their campaigns and massing strength to pounce on Damascus and force its unique political leadership to accept what it does not accept, or approve of.

Everybody also knows that [words indistinct] escalate the military aggression against Lebanon and coincided with the events taking place in 'Arafat's protectorate. It then took the shape of direct letters, sent by the U.S. computer first and then by the Zionist computer, noting the presence of advanced, modern, and capable missiles. The conspiracy is clear, multifolded, and diverse. The criminal mouths are open. President Clinton is sitting on a couch in the White House, waiting to know the answer and the reaction to what the U.S. computer has said.

If an answer must be given, we confidently say that the letter by the U.S. computer was illegible, and its cryptical contents incomprehensible and undecipherable. In spite of this, we say that the United States miscalculated because it touched on taboos and sacred things. Damascus is off limits to them. Damascus has slammed the doors in their face. Damascus is guided only by God and by what is right. Since this is the case, all the letters will remain unopened, written with tar, and without serial numbers, and will not achieve any results.

What Clinton has obtained in Gaza or in Amman, and what he expects to get in Baghdad does not exist either in Qasiyun, on the coast, on the mountain, or in any corner or house that raises the flag of Damascus and the picture of Hafiz al-Asad.

The U.S. computer is now afflicted with the plague. This is the first time, perhaps, that this computer goes wrong. Its figures are shaky, its keys are yellow and effaced, its ink is rotten, and the results of its calculations blurred. If this computer seeks a remedy or an expert, we do not have in our quiver any remedy, expert, or those who try to send out feelers.

President Clinton must now realize that our people in Palestine, Beirut, Baghdad, Jordan, and in the Arabian Peninsula support Syria and Hafiz al-Asad. We advise him not to play with fire in order not to singe his fingers. He should repair the computer and address the letter to another place so that we will not lose the trust we have in U.S. technology and industry.

Would it not have been better if President Clinton had addressed his letter to his organs which arrest strugglers, to Yitzhaq Rabin who kills defenseless people, or to his allies who quell liberties, and suppress democracy in their cities? Why does Clinton want us to be his advisers, we who are the weakest in this field? It is a revolution until the liberation of land and man.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Autonomy Signing Reportedly Put Off to 25-26 Sep

TA0109043795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Political circles believe that the signing ceremony for the second stage of autonomy will be put off until around Rosh Hashanah [25-26 September]. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that these remarks were made on the eve of the conclusion of a week of talks at Elat's Patio Hotel.

Following a round of talks, it was noted that no progress had been made on the two main problems: Hebron and the release of prisoners.

It is believed that Peres and 'Arafat will meet some time next week to advance the negotiations. A Rabin-'Arafat meeting is expected later.

The prime minister will hold discussions at noon to sum up the week of deliberations, prior to their continuation next week.

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Algeria

TNC Official Holds 'Frank' Talks in U.S.

LD0109092295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Djamel Ould Abbas, chairman of the foreign affairs and immigration committee at the Transitional National Council [TNC], met with David Satterfied at the National Security Council in Washington yesterday. He was also received at the State Department by the assistant director of North African affairs and the official in charge of Algerian affairs at the State Department.

Following the meetings, the chairman of the foreign affairs and immigration committee stated that his talks with the American officials were an opportunity to exchange viewpoints on the situation in Algeria and in particular on the preparations underway for holding the forthcoming presidential elections, an important step to resolve the crisis facing the country, as well as bilateral relations.

Dr. Ould Abbas expressed satisfaction with his talks which he said were frank and necessary.

Bomb Explodes in Bad El Oued; Zeroual Visits Site

LD3108164395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Liamine Zeroual went personally to the site of an explosion that took place at Ounouri Square at Bab El Oued at midday today, information services at the presidency said.

The president was flanked at the site by the interior minister, the national security director general, and the Algiers governor. The president gave the necessary instructions to the concerned authorities to provide speedy attention to the victims of this barbaric operation, which once again exposes the savagery of those criminals.

According to an official in the security services, the car bomb has left seven people dead and more than 80 people injured, including citizens and security men. It was a suicidal operation carried by terrorists. [passage omitted]

Car Bomb Update: 9 Dead, 104 Hurt

LD3108193095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We start our news bulletin today with a painful incident. As you saw from our special bulletins, a booby-trapped car blew up today at 1150 [1050 GMT] in Mohamed Ounouri Square in the working class district of Bab El Oued in the capital, killing nine people and injuring 104 others, including 16 very seriously. In addition to this, the bomb caused considerable material damage. [passage omitted]

Official Vows To Punish Bombers

LD0109085895 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to Algiers health authorities, the toll of the victims of the booby-trapped car which went off at Ounouri Square in Bab El Oued district of Algiers has risen to nine dead and 104 wounded. According to the same source 88 of the wounded have gone home after having had initial treatment; 16 other are still under medical observation at Ain Naadja hospital and Mustapha Pasha Hospital university hospital. [passage omitted]

The minister of interior has condemned the attack in the following statement to our radio correspondent Farida Larbi:

[Begin Mustapha Benmansour recording] As you have witnessed, this is another criminal and odious attack. It was aimed at a very busy street in a working class district at the end of the month and on the eve of the new scholar year.

This attack reaffirms, therefore, the aims of those who have decided to carry out acts of sabotage against the country and wage a war against its people.

I would like to stress here in the name of the government that this attack will not diminish our resolve, as a state apparatus, to find and eliminate those who plan and carry out such attacks. God willing, we are going to be able in the few coming days to arrest and eliminate the perpetrators of this attack.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincerest condolences, in my own name and in the name of the head of state and the head of government, to the families of the victims and to wish a speedy recovery for the wounded, especially the 50 or so who are still recovering in hospitals. [end recording]

Rights Group: 300 Women Killed by 'Terrorists' to Date

LD3108193795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kamel Rezzag Bara, president of the national human rights monitoring group, said in an interview to APS today that 300 women had been killed by terrorists in Algeria. Mr. Rezzag Bara pointed out that up to now 30,000 widows, who are in charge of 150,000 orphans, have been counted as victims of terrorism.

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The president of the national human rights monitoring group said that the Algerian envoy to the fourth UN conference on women will take advantage of this opportunity to denounce these crimes and to ask for more solidarity with Algerian women.

Mr. Rezzag Bara made these statements on the sidelines of the screening of a documentary about Algerian women that is to be shown at the conference in Beijing.

National Rally Leader To Run for President

LD3108200595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Abdelkader Belhi, leader of the Algerian National Rally, today announced his intention to stand as a candidate in the forthcoming presidential elections.

Opposition Newsletter on 'Junta,' Elections

MS3108120395 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 8 Aug 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] supporters in Europe"; date not given; all names and quotation marks as received—received via fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial: Hiding the sun with a sieve!

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "They want to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths, But Allah will not allow but that His Light should be perfected, even though the Unbelievers may detest (it)" (Koran Surat At-Tauba, 9:32)

The Pharaoh's magicians in Algeria are staging another act of the eternal play called "dialogue with the opposition" and in which "dialogue with the FIS" constitutes the principle act of this comedy show! However, the opposition does not seem to be motivated in taking part in this comedy and this may render the final acts of the play called "the junta presidential elections" and the "consecration of General Zeroual as president", amateur and politically incorrect!

In its plan of legitimating the illegitimacy, the Junta is facing many problems, amongst them:

— Finding credible "horses" that will accept to enter a fake race with General Zeroual while the bookies have it all set up beforehand.
— Inviting a large possible audience, to applause the race and ratify the consecration of General Zeroual as president. The better the quality of the guest the more respectable the fraud may appear. That is why the REAL [as received] opposition presence is primordial.
— The disapproval from within the Junta General circle of General Zeroual participation in the race. They are saying :"we would rather all be on the same footing. You may one day forget that these elections were just a show then you may start to behave as a real president with us who have put you in this chair. You may even be tempted of sending us to premature retirement. Our military regime dairy [as received] of the last three decades is full of similar stories!"
— But most importantly is the security state of the country, in other words the Mujahedeen military activities!

Many observers have noticed that each time the Junta propaganda machine tries to persuade the international community that the country is "pacified" and that the security situation is under control, the Mujahedeen move to the use of more noisy equipments that makes it difficult for the Junta to muffle. The Junta secret police can only uses the same devices but with different targets in order to tarnish the image of armed resistance it could not defeat!

The Junta Generals have said that they will hold their "presidential elections" before the end of DECEMBER 1995! [as received] It is a challenge but the Algerian people and the Mujahedeen are saying it will not happen! The one who win this specific challenge will have undoubtedly shown the weakness of the other on the battle ground, not on the censured media!

An aspect of the Algerian conflict's dark side: the psychological war!

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "Likewise did We make for every Messenger an enemy,satans among men and jinns, inspiring each other with flowery discourses by way of deception. If thy lord had so wanted, they would not have done it : so leave them and what they forge. To such (deceit) let the hearts of those incline, who have no faith in the Hereafter :and let them delight in it and let them earn from it what they may " (Koran, Surat Al An'am, 6:112,113).

During the Algerian war (1954-62) and as the French army's grip on the monopoly of information coming out of Algeria, one of the eminent Algerian strategists, Abban Ramdane uses to say: "a military operation against a colonialist policeman (guarde champetre) in the middle of a big city like Algiers, Oran or Bone (Annaba), can be more productive than a big battle in the remote maquis involving battalions of Mujahedeen!". Of course Abban Ramdane was not diminishing the power of the Mujahedeen "Katayab" (battalions) but he was

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merely referring to the complementarity of the military and information fronts.

More recently and during the Gulf war, the commander of the "coalition forces" said that his strategy was based on four (not three) pillars: the army (land), the Air-force, the marines and...the information (or media presentation)!

Today, in Algeria, the Junta seems to have sensed this priority since the beginning of the on-going armed struggle. It must be said that in this front, the Junta had the edge because on one hand "everything goes" in its game and on the other hand the Mujahedeen priority have so far been to organise the armed struggle. Building "Kasmates" (bunkers), armament workshops, military hospitals in the maquis, training new recruits and most importantly keeping the "jihad flame" alive, were the priorities for this armed struggle. The information sector if it was not as developed as the military operational sector, was not totally "dead" on the other hand praise be to Allah. The Mujahedeen inside Algeria kept mobile radio stations emitting such as "Al Waffa" of the FIS information committee (National provisional bureau). Periodically, the Mujahedeen will make incursions on the Junta TV network, beside newsletters and leaflets who are still distributed discretely in some area and in the open in others. The Mosques' walls are still used as notice board for the Mujahedeen's communiques and leaflets. The level and scale of the Junta oppression have render the people access to the Mujahedeen literature inside Algeria, difficult on the top of the confusion deliberately provoked by the Junta secret police, "La S.M" [expansion unknown] which produces fake communiques and literature.

"La S.M" is known to put on some mosques's wall and at night, fake documents imputed to the Mujahedeen. The "La S.M" has many times tries to put these fake documents in the Mujahedeen distribution network as well.

The information battle inside and outside Algeria differ somewhat in terms of objective and methods.

In Algeria the Mujahedeen are also doing another of the Islamic duties called "tahrid al Mu'minine" (awakening the Believers) more by military actions which bring joy to the oppressed mass, than by speech or writing. Even in this field, "La S.M" also intervenes to distort the Mujahedeen's message. The Algerian people march from "the oppression of those who have the uncontrollable urge of playing Gods on earth" toward the freedom of "la Illaha ilallah" (there is no deity except Allah) is reduced by "La S.M" to that of a situation of a bunch of bloodthirsty criminals whose objective is to slaughter as many women's and children's throats as possible. The operational details of the crimes instigated by "La S.M" and put in the account of the Mujahedeen will be known on day. It is in the interest of future generations that no agreement similar to the "Evian accord" should come and clean the hands of those involved in this "untold genocide" against innocent civilian population.

For those who try to look beyond the opaque cloud of disinformation, the "La S.M" work pattern is straightforward. It is a systematic attempt of transforming each component of the Algerian society into a direct Mujahedeen's opponent by provocative actions. When no such clear grouping exists in the Algerian society, the "La S.M" will fabricate artificial ones such as "the community of "educated Algerian people", "the community of (particular type of) Music lovers", "the community of sport lovers" (in this chapter Hassiba Boulmerka is running after...Hocine Yamaha may Allah have mercy on him. She apparently has received a death sentence immediately following her athletic consecration. The Mujahedeen must have stopped all military actions and have put all their concentration on the vital case of Boulmerka?!)

How many Algerian people have fallen in the "La S.M" trap of disinformation including the Intelligentsia. As they say: "the one who, today does not see, may tomorrow understand!"

By intelligentsia it is meant those intellectuals who do not deny for their people the freedom of choosing their representatives and their project of society even if they may hold different political opinions as it is their legitimate right. They know that outside a legitimacy freely chosen by the Algerian people, there is only anarchy, the law of the jungle and the bullets talk!

This talk on the other hand does not, at all concern those "Minocrates" who have a perverted understanding of the rules of democracy. They are democrats as long as the Algerian people follow their alienated ideology and see no abnormality in a situation where a micro-minority dictates its will to the majority. How loud was their speech amplified from behind the Junta military tanks and in the comfort of Paris' T.V studios?! At this stage of the struggle they are not worth the ink of these lines, nor are they worth talking about. Their destiny will undoubtedly be that of their predecessors who, as a son turning against his mother, they have turned against the Algerian people. Let us refocus on the real target! The Junta did not stop at monopolising the state TV and radio but has eliminated all the press which has benefited from a "fresh air" of freedom paid for with the blood of the Algerian youths during the popular uprising of October 1988.

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Since the coup d'Etat of January 1992, all newspapers of the real opposition were made outlawed by the Junta, starting with the FIS newspaper EL MOUNKIDH. The emptiness in the press domain was completed by an armada of newspapers newly created and called the "independent press" even though it is openly known that some of them are "owned" by officers in "La S.M" including its ex-boss General Betchine.

It is however a bit funny, when some big news agency such as the official French AFP refer of that kind of press as "the private press". It gives the impression for the reader that this press is "private" therefore not "state-owned" therefore "independent" therefore "credible"?! "La S.M" is there to provide means of boosting the "private press" credibility. When the credibility of one of those newspaper is damaged, "La S.M" switch to another until the damaging cause of the first is forgotten. This is exactly the on-going case between the discredited newspaper LA TRIBUNE which have published in these last few weeks, information believed to have originated from "La S.M" files, and the newspaper EL WATAN which has made a come back by publishing a "daring" piece of news which according to the Junta laws on the media, would have put its authors in jail and the newspaper closed. The published information reported a Mujahedeen operation, not against civilians this time, but against a Junta military convoy without giving much details of this imaginary operation, it must unfortunately be said .

The Junta's hegemony on all political expressions in Algeria, goes further than suppressing the FIS voice. It has extended to almost every political opposition which may not agree with the Junta to the extend that "La S.M" has become indirectly the sole source of information that is feed to the international media network. But as Shaykh Abbassi Madani (may Allah hasten his and all the brothers liberation from the Junta jails!) uses to repeat: "you can fool many people many times but you can not fool all the people all the time!". Last week "La S.M" was hardly taken seriously when it offered via the "private press", to provide the exact details of one of the portrait-robots in relation to the bombe attack in Paris!

In its urge of writing and conduction the "disinformation symphony", the Junta have found the FIS voice outside Algeria, a very annoying and out of rhythm (the Junta's) sound! The muzzling of such voice was given the priority and subcontracted to the "Balladur-Pasqua" team which represented the then French authorities. Given the strategic position of France with respect to Algeria and Algerians, a gradual and calculated campaign to eliminate the voice of those who have won the popular elections, was undertaken. As "Balladure-Pasqua" left office, the "job" has reached a stage of completion whereby all active members of the FAF (Fraternitie Algerian en France) were exiled to where it will be hard to hear their voice. The were deported to Burkina Fasso in the South of Africa. The FAF spokesman, Moussa Kraouche is still up to know under house arrest. Pressure were put on Germany and the US to muzzle the FIS representative voice up to a point as to strictly forbid declarations from the FIS leaders in Germany and any statement was countered by a very heavy fine from the German authorities. The "La S.M" seems to have decided to take matter in its own hands after the departure of "Balladure-Pasqua" and go back to its previous criminal acts of murdering the regime opponents outside Algeria. The murder of shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui (may Allah accept him as a martyr) is seen by many as a serious change in the "La S.M" way of muzzling the other voice. The assassination of Shaykh Abdelbaki Sahraoui is taught to have planned in the office of "service action" of "La S.M" under the supervision of Colonel Mansour Benkhalat who is under the orders of General Mohamed Medienne the "La S.M" 's boss. General Smain Laroui, the counter espionage chief is also involved in the programming of political assassinations. With the support of General Lamari, two secret organisations were set up: the OSSRA (Organisation Secrete pour la Sauvegarde de la Republique Algerienne) and the OJAL (Organisation des Jeunes Algeriens Libres). The killers of these two organisations are apparently being trained in the basements of the operational headquarters of Ben Aknoun and the barracks of Beni- Messous both situated in Algiers.

Shaykh Ali Belhadj may Allah hasten his liberty uses to say that "La S.M" is the real parasite of the country (Al Mukhabarat hiya soussatu al bilad!)! [as received] " ...they plot and plan, and Allah too plans, but the best of planners is Allah." (Koran surat Al-Anfal, 8:30)

Reflection on the state of the Ummah: The International Islamic Conference 95.

Last sunday (06/08/95), the International Islamic conference 95 took place in the London Arena. Many Islamic scholars and activists were invited to give a speech about the state of the Ummah. Amongst those invited: Pr Ghulam Azam (Bangladesh),, Shaykh Hasan Al Turabi (via satelite from Sudan), Pr Khurshid Ahmed (Pakistan), Dr Yusuf Al Qaradawi (Egypt), Shaykh Fathi Yakan (Lebanon), Dr kamal el Heibawy (Egypt), Abdulah Idrees (USA), Imam Siraj Wahhaj (USA), Ahmed Von Denfer (Germany), Dr Abdul Baki (USA), Shaykh Abduz Zaahir (Somalia), Pr Dawud O.S.Naibi (Nigeria)

The Algerian FIS was represented by a member of it executive committee overseas, Dr Djaafar El Houari. In his speech, brother Djaafar El Houari went on summarising

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the origin of the conflict in Algeria emphasising the destructive role of the "ideological minority" which wants to rule the people and the country by the policy of "iron and fire". He also clarified many of the mischiefs put into the account of the Mujahedeen by the Junta propaganda machine. He also demonstrated that it was not in the interest of the Junta to change the statu-quo and that is why it has never been serious about a political solution. As far as the FIS is concerned, brother Djafaar El Houari restated that the Islamic Front is for a Just and permanent solution that will extract the cause of the crisis from its roots and will give back rights to their people. He ended his speech by calling the Muslims to support the just cause of the Algerian people.

During this conference the Algerian Community in Britain (ACB) has participated by organising a photo exhibition about the actual situation in Algeria. The selection of photographs included exclusive and detailed photos of people killed by the Junta after being tortured. The same pattern of torture are seen on those photos. Other photographs taken secretly from the Sahara's concentration camps, show the revolting conditions of detention that Islamists are subject to.

The use of renegade writers in the cultural battle against Islam!

The waking up of the Muslim Ummah is disturbing a lot of people in the international sphere. Strategists are already updating their forecast for the reshaping of the world after the collapse of the communist block. Some observers went further in their analysis as to predict a "New cold war" this time against Islam which in their views will become the most threatening danger in the near future. It is however hard to dissociate the data used in their analysis which part belongs to reality and which part belongs to fiction.

Some influential circles have already started an open war on Islamic culture and values using "Non-Muslim minds" in "Muslim bodies", if this metaphor can symbolise those "intellectuals" who seem to get pleasure out of belittling their own people and society from the Islamic angle.

In Algeria for instance the junta have been discreetly sponsoring the publicity of writers and politicians with the label of "democrats" despite the fact that these people have openly rejected the popular choice of the last elections and are more over asking for tougher military measures against what they call "fundamentalism" as if the killings, tortures, concentration camps, oppression and humiliation on a daily basis are not enough against the Muslim Algerian people. Some politically engaged writers whose novels have nothing to do with Algeria or the Algerian people except in the decorative sense ie the imaginary stories takes place in Algeria with people having names similar to those commonly use in that country. These writers whose audience is to be find outside of the Algerian society, are being purposely recompensed by "politically oriented" literature prices distributors in western capitals. Those aesthetically egocentric "guardians of standards" in the literature domain in particular and art in general have had the tendency lately to encourage every mediocre Muslim (by name only!) writer who have the "guts" to attack Islam or he (her) Islamic roots. Under other historical circumstances these "cultural puppets" would have had only themselves as readers and no "remotely controlled" publicity lights would have shone.

There was a writer in Algeria, Rachid Mimouni (may Allah give him what he deserves), whose novels portray a very negative image of the Muslims to a point where in one of his last novel, he describe one of the characters as a fundamentalist muslim (who incidently has performed the duty of jihad in Afghanistan). The image of this noble character is then purposely and viciously portrayed as a paranoiac who accuses even his own "innocent, human, doctor and communist brother" of having an affaire with his wife in the most vulgar kind of language. How under the actual Algerian situation, such writing can be described as politically neutral and a passive act while thousands of muslims are in concentration camps among them the cream of the Algerian intellectuals, those who never sold their "Deen" for material flatteries to those fighting Islam, be it in "Islamic" countries or outside. Such apparently inocent novel under PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES [as received] is an act of decriminalising the extermination of Islamists. An act exactly similar to what Nazi Germany, Vichy France, Musolini Italy and Empire Japan artists did DURING THE WAR! [as received]

Algerian Islamists have been kidnapped, tortured, killed, forced to exile but never have they chosen to side up with the oppressor against their own people. He was right that Algerian writer Tahar Ouattar (who incidently does not have anything to do with the Islamic tendency ...on the contrary) when asked about how big lost was for Algeria the killing of a certain writer. His answer was "no! it was not a lost at all for Algeria...for his family yes ...and maybe for France as well".

THE LUCKY CHOSEN ONES.

Allah (SWT) Says: "...and that He (Allah) may take to Himself from your ranks Martyr and Allah loveth not those that do wrong." (Koran surat Al'Imran,3:140)

As the politicians and scholars of the Ummah seem at last to agree on the necessity of Jihad to stop the Serbs

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aggression against the Muslims in Bosnia, one can not help to remember those who spontaneously answer the call wanting the pleasure of Allah only. This is the story of Abu Massaab Es-souadi who won martyrdom (Nahsabuhu Kadalik oula nuzaki ala Allah ahada) in Bosnia during Octobre 1993.

Mysterious is the way of how Allah chooses Martyrs amongst the believers; The story of Belkacem Belahoual known as Abu Massaab Es- souadi (the swidish) is a good example.

This young man was born in Sweden from an algerian father and a polish catholic mother. The mother forbad his father to see him after their divorce and tried to educate her son in the catholic faith and in a catholic environment while inculcating in the young mind her own anti-Islamic feelings resulting from the failed marriage.

In 1988 Abu Masaab's father managed to see his son and introduced him to brother Abu Amina asking the later to present Islam to his son so that maybe Allah will enlighten his heart through this brother and bring him back to his original "fitra".

With the help of Allah and after long and deep discussions in which all the misconceptions about Islam were brushed away, Abu Mossaab embraced Islam. Few months latter he was amongst the mujahedeen in the battlefield of jihad in Afghanistan. He spent three year performing the highest duty in Islam against which no duty can be compared.

After Afghanistan he joined the armed struggle amongst his brothers in Bosnia where Allah has decreed to be the place where Abu Mossaab will find martyrdom (Inchaalah). May Allah resurrect him and all the martyrs for His sake amongst the prophets in the day of judgement as promised. His brothers in arms still remember him as the one who always asked them to pray for him (make duaa) so that Allah will make him a martyr. He has also reported to brother Abu Amina a vision in which he saw the place of the battlefield where he died as being situated between the sea and a mountain not long before he was killed. And he was killed as in his vision. May Allah accept him as martyr. Amine.

"Think not of those who are slain in Allah's way as dead. Nay,they live, finding their sustenance from their Lord." Koran surat Al'Imran,3:169).

More Commentary Lambasting 'Junta'

MS3108124795 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 15 Aug 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria, published by the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] supporters in Europe"; date not given; all names and quotations marks as received—received via fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial: If one day, the People wanted dignity.

Praise be to Allah Who Says: "They want to extinguish Allah's Light with their mouths, But Allah will not allow but that His Light should be perfected, even though the Unbelievers may detest (it)" (Koran Surat At-Tauba, 9:32).

The situation in Algeria is a situation of war at its peak! Observers are unanimous in relating the late increase in the intensity of the war to the political deadlock and to the conviction that with the actual Junta hierarchy no solution to the crisis is to be foreseen.

Despite the Junta monopoly on the news coming "officially" from Algeria and the deliberate distortion of the Mujahedeen activities by the Junta propaganda machine, the increase in the use of bombs is having an important effect on the military balance. The Mujahedeen do not have the Junta's planes and Napalm bombs, they are using what they can and as the hero of the Algerian war, Larbi Ben Mhidi told the French paratroopers in 1958 "give us your planes and Napalm bombs and we will give you our handbags [couffins) in where the bombs were carried)!".

The psychological effect, this military re-positioning has on the people is as usual, countered by the Junta propaganda which tries to project an image of the Mujahedeen in war against the Algerian people while the Junta troops are there on their side to protect them. The Junta real fear is a popular uprising under the leadership of the Mujahedeen that will undoubtedly shorten what ever remaining live the usurpers of power may still have. The Romanian, Iranian and Algerian October 1988... popular uprisings are surely still alive in the memories of those who may have thought that Justice and accountability will never come to Algeria for as long as they live.

As for the atrocities the Algerian people are victims of and the accusations made in the Junta "private" press about the Mujahedeen perpetrating un-Islamic acts in their struggle, then why is it that the Junta is the ONLY PARTY IN THE CONFLICT WHO HAS REFUSED

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THE DESIGNATION OF AN INDEPENDENT ENQUIRING TEAM [as received] to look at these murders and report the truth to the opinion??? The answer is that the Junta is allergic to light, to transparency, to the truth...which may show to the people a much uglier face of the monster than it may have been imagined before!

Forty four months of war in which more than 50 000 people have died, ten of thousands are held in concentration camps, thousands have disappeared....and all this time the authors of the irresponsible act of Military coup d'Etat of 11/01/92 did not stop talking about "dialogue" with the opposition to find a political solution to the chaos they have put the country into! Is there anybody who still believes in the sincerity of the Junta "monologue" (rather!)?

The only language the Junta understands is the only language it knows, that of force! History is here to show that no concession no real change (as opposite to cosmetic change), no end of war is possible with the Junta except if extracted by force!

The last three decades of Military regime has shown that not a iota of the Algerian people rights and freedom was given without a bill paid in blood and in many times a lot of it unfortunately! In this aspect the Algerian people are not an exception! Praise be to Allah that in such place of the Ummah land, there is still exist Muslims ready to die standing up than living on their knees. They will never bow inchaAllah to any creature but to the Creator of all creatures!

Algeria News and Comments: The image and the sound: which one to believe!

How contrasting was a photographic picture and its adjacent text which appeared in the London based newspaper EL HAYAT of last Monday (14/08/95). The photograph showed the Junta police centre of Souidania town situated at about 10 Km south of Algiers. The centre was destroyed by what must have been a bombe and this was the content of the picture's title. The text adjacent to the photographic picture however, was in complete disharmony with the picture. It related a story from the French news agency AFP which has itself picked it up from the Junta "private newspaper" LIBERTE (they have taken all the good names!). The story was that of a commando of eight Mujahedeen (as you can see they are just a few!) who shot dead a family of five members, in the face and head using a machine gun (which in Islam if done in purpose is forbidden. The prophet (p.b.u.h) forbids purposely targeting the face in war.) The cause of this assassination according to LIBERTE is that one member of the family did not want to join the Mujahedeen (as if the Mujahedeen are opening the doors to potential traitors to join the rank!). Then the more emotional part of the story: a little boy of seven months old managed to crawl to the dead bodies and went on sleeping in between his father and mother". The story is so well written that it gives the impression to the readers that the reporter must have been in the scene probably hiding somewhere and taking meticulous notes. But then again how did he/she know in advance about the operation...?

This is how the Junta propaganda machine tries to cover legitimate military actions such as the bombing of a Junta police centre by horror stories in order to tarnish the Mujahedeen image. Incidently the same "newspaper" when talking about the Souidania operation said that the bomb was placed near the post office, a school and shops...!?

As long as the Junta refuses the establishment of an independent enquiring team to investigate on all the violent events, whatever comes from the Junta media monopoly is a mere propaganda. What is a bit incomprehensive is the readiness of some big news agencies such as the French AFP, to amplify the Junta propaganda building their piece of news on a single written source such as a junta "private newspaper". They are sure more professional then they sound!

When the news precede the events!

It must have been a computer error when the precise details of the assassination of the Algerian Journalist Aicha Benamar of another "private newspaper" L'HEBDO-Libere" (may Allah give her guidance and never bring her back to THAT "newspaper"), were published. The newspaper where she was working before taking a six months holidays, gave precise details on how the journalist was kidnapped on the 01/08/95 while on her way home and then was slaughtered the following day! When Benamar saw the news, she called few newspapers and told them she was still alive. The people of L'HEBDO-Libere who could not wait for their "colleague" to be kidnapped and slaughtered before publishing the story, must have by experience, been quite certain about how things will go and were afraid to loose the scoop. They may have picked up another month assassination program by mistake!

Cooperation of Libya's Pharaoh and the Junta in the war against Islamists!

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's regime was quick to run to the Junta in search of support and advice after the Islamic struggle in Libya has reached the armed staged few weeks ago. The cooperation between the two dictatorial regimes is on the "security" chapter as predicted. By "security" it is meant the war against Islamists. Colonel

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al- Qadhdhafi is also having internal problems with old companion of route in the Libyan regime.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's interior minister Hidjazi and his Junta's homologue Benmansour have met in Tripoli (Libya) and signed what they have called a "security accord" which basis where laid down during the Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and General Zeroual meeting in the south of Algeria few months ago.

The xenophobia of the colonel!

It has become a tradition with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to take revenge on innocent people just because they are working in Libya and are of a certain nationality at a time when the colonel is having disagreement with officials of the given country!

Many Muslims in particular have lost their accumulated wealth in Libya just because the Colonel felt like he can change the law when he feels like it and with retrospective effect or that he no longer aggreed with this or that leader.

Today the discord is apparently with the palestinian PLO officials and all the palestinians working in Libya have to pay for it.

These kind of regimes are the real obstacle for this Ummah to unite. They use the word union for a demagogical purpose but they have never been sincere. May Allah unite the people of this Ummah even if some of it leaders don't like.

Egypt

Mubarak on POW's, Peace Process, Iraq

NC3108181295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 31 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stressed that Egypt is demanding an investigation into the killing of Egyptian POW's in the wars between Egypt and Israel.

In a statement to the German radio and television network Deutsche Welle, President Mubarak said that Egypt will not easily forget this issue because those who were killed were its sons. He expressed the hope that this bilateral problem will be solved smoothly.

Regarding the Middle East peace process, President Mubarak said that Egypt is offering to help solve some persistent problems in the Arab-Israeli negotiations. Regarding the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track, he explained, there are certain problems regarding the Israeli settlements and the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank. He said the presence of settlers causes friction between the Palestinians and the Israelis, which complicates the entire process.

He also noted some problems regarding the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, such as the establishment of early warning stations. But these things will be solved soon, he said.

On the situation in Iraq, President Mubarak said recent developments, including the defection of the Iraqi president's sons-in-law to Jordan, are not clear and so far cannot be understood or believed. He noted that the defectors were part of the Iraqi regime. He said: It can be said that the defection caused a rift in the Iraqi regime, but one cannot predict the fall of this regime.

On Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the president said that Egypt has nothing against the people of Sudan, who are suffering from very complex problems. When the Sudanese regime has internal problems, he said, it trumps up problems with Egypt, such as the problem of Hala'ib, and so on.

On the attack on his motorcade in Addis Ababa, the president stressed that those who perpetrated the crime are sponsored by the Sudanese National Islamic Front leader, Hasan al-Turabi, who wants to be a leader or a great person. But such things will not make him a great person, he said.

On the Bosnian problem, President Mubarak said: The problem could have been solved in its early stages, but it is now too late to use force. The problem must now be solved politically on a just basis.

The following is the text of President Mubarak's statement to the German radio and television:

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President: Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace agreement with Israel. This took place many years ago. Now, other countries are doing the same. Jordan signed an agreement, Syria is discussing an agreement, and the Palestinians are negotiating one. Does this prove that you took the right course? Where does Egypt stand in relation to the peace process?

[Mubarak] I would like to say this: Honestly, Egypt is always in the lead as far as these things are concerned. When, after the October 1973 war, the late President Anwar al-Sadat launched his peace initiative and visited Jerusalem in November 1977, he took the first step on the road to peace. There were lengthy negotiations, and in 1979 an agreement was signed. Although many countries attacked us — not many countries from the outside world, but many of the countries that should have participated in the process — those countries found 17 years later that they should engage in the peace process. Had they understood al-Sadat's step at the time, things would be better now.

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An agreement has now been signed between Israel and Jordan. A Declaration of Principles has been signed between Israel and the Palestinians, although some problems persist. We are helping to solve these problems. Negotiations with Syria also face some problems, but these problems will be solved soon. So, without the steps by Egypt of 17 years ago, these parties would have found it very difficult to sign peace agreements and make such moves. Egypt took the first steps in the peace process.

[Correspondent] What is your view concerning the Palestinians?

[Mubarak] There are some problems concerning troop withdrawals from the West Bank and Gaza. The problem of the settlements and settlers must be solved, because it constitutes a very difficult point for both sides. The settlers' continued presence causes friction between the Palestinians and the Israelis and complicates everything. A swift withdrawal might create problems for Israel, so the issue must be discussed. I believe that they are about to reach a solution. After that the Palestinian elections will begin. This is a very important and the most difficult thing for the Palestinians.

As for Syria, there is a problem concerning early warning stations for both sides. They need time to resolve this problem.

[Correspondent] There have been reports about "killings of Egyptian POW's" during the Egyptian-Israeli wars. Does this affect relations between the two countries?

[Mubarak] We did not start this. We did not know of this beforehand; it was announced in Israel by a research center. When it was reported by the media, we had to ask and wonder and demand an investigation. We do not want to create problems between our two countries. The problem lies with the persons who committed these crimes. That is why we demand an investigation, at least to inform the public. We will not forget this issue easily because the people who were killed, if it is true, were our brothers and sons. We hope this problem will be resolved easily.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the path to peace has not been free of problems from the beginning?

[Mubarak] The peace process is a different thing. We are working for peace and are urging other states to participate in the peace process. We started this in 1977.

[Correspondent] Is Iraq concerned with the peace process? And developments like the defection of some of Saddam Husayn's relatives, how do they affect the region?

[Mubarak] Iraq is not a party to the peace process. The states concerned with the peace process are those bordering on Israel—namely, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Egypt, who signed first. Iraq is in the second part of the process. Because of recent events, including Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan, the situation in Iraq is not clear. The situation is not clear to us. As for the criticism by Husayn Kamil, we could neither understand nor believe it, because he was part of the ruling Iraqi regime that is responsible for what has happened. It is impossible to predict what might happen.

[Correspondent] So you are not as optimistic as some countries that believe that this is the beginning of the end?

[Mubarak] I have no reliable information and I cannot say anything without being sure of it. The defection caused a split in the Iraqi regime. As for whether the Iraqi regime will fall or survive, that is something I cannot predict.

[Correspondent] On the international level, one of the basic issues preoccupying the world is the former Yugoslavia, and of course Bosnia. The Islamic and Arab worlds as well as Egypt are concerned about this issue. What do you think of the latest developments?

[Mubarak] As far as the Bosnian issue is concerned, it might have been possible to solve it if it had been handled in its early stages. It might be too late to use force now. There is an arms embargo on Bosnia. If it is lifted, a lot of weapons will be introduced. Will the Serbs let the Muslims get weapons to fight them with? This is my greatest concern. The Serbs will not wait until the Bosnians obtain weapons. They will launch surprise attacks that will be catastrophic. I therefore believe that at present the problem can be solved politically rather than through the use of force. It is too late for that now.

[Correspondent] Do you think that this could happen?

[Mubarak] I believe that it could have happened if the EU had had enough willpower at the outset. The international community must work seriously. To solve the problem, all the parties to the dispute should be involved. I mean the United States and Russia, too.

[Correspondent] What role is there for the Islamic states?

[Mubarak] There have been resolutions. I believe that the Islamic states will not hesitate about or retreat from solving this problem. We do not want to lose any more human lives on either side or to abuse anyone's rights. But the problem must be solved fairly.

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[Correspondent] Let us move on to the domestic situation in Egypt. If we look at the assassination attempt in Addis Ababa, can we say that these armed groups receive support from anyone? What is the source of their support?

[Mubarak] Terrorism has now become a phenomenon in many countries—in the United States, France, Germany, and many other countries. If the world stops turning a blind eye, the countries that host these terrorist groups will be in big trouble. What happened in Addis Ababa was predictable. These groups—some of them were launched in the seventies and some were involved in the assassination of late President Anwar al-Sadat—are still active. They are being financed by some rich people, perhaps in the Arab world, or by funds collected in the United States and other countries under the pretext of welfare funds for Muslims. But this is a deception. Most of those terrorists were in Afghanistan. They left there when the conflict between Afghanistan and Russia ended. They moved to Iran or Yemen, and some of them are living in Sudan. Their leaders live in Switzerland, Germany, England, Denmark and other countries. When they get a chance to commit a crime, they move to Sudan or to some other neighboring country.

As for the incident in Addis Ababa, I expected something to happen, but I did not expect it to happen so soon or the way it happened. The perpetrators of the crime are hosted by al-Turabi and his groups. Al-Turabi wanted to be a leader, a big shot; but such things will not make him a great man. He was appointed vice president during former President Ja'far Numayri's administration. He has no government post now, but he is stronger than the government itself. He can move the government in the direction he wants. He says he wants Islam to prevail, and he claims that Islam exists only in Sudan.

The Ethiopians are investigating what happened in Addis Ababa. Reports that Ethiopia was involved in the operation are not true. I met the Ethiopian president at the airport, and he was very annoyed and nervous; he had had no inkling. Those people infiltrated across the border to commit their crime. After that, there was a tug of war between Egypt and Sudan, but things are quiet now.

[Correspondent] What is the story concerning Sudan?

[Mubarak] We have nothing against the people of Sudan. We say this and sincerely believe it. The nature of the Sudanese people is completely different than that suggested by the practices of the so-called National Islamic Front in Sudan. The Sudanese suffer from very complicated domestic problems. The standard of living is below average, and some people do not even have enough food to survive.

We have no reason for problems with Sudan, but when the Sudanese leaders have an internal problem they raise the issue of Hala'ib and other issues. This happened during the era of the late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, when they caused problems about Hala'ib. It also happened during the late President Anwar al-Sadat's administration and also with me. They are repeating themselves.

[Correspondent] Egypt faces a problem of extremism. Can the countries with such problems cooperate?

[Mubarak] Arab countries, such as Algeria, and some other countries which I do not want to name, are facing this problem. Some European countries host these terrorist groups, grant them asylum, and allow them to move freely. But there will come a time when these groups will turn against the countries that host them. This happened in Denmark; they were planning bombings in Denmark. If these countries do not try to solve this problem and stop hosting such people, they will regret it.

These armed groups arouse the indignation of the people here in Egypt. The overwhelming majority are against terrorism because it is against our nature. We are not used to it; this is an alien concept. When the terrorists make any moves, the public stands against them and reports them. This is the best support we receive against those terrorists.

[Correspondent] Let us move on to the domestic economy, which is a very important issue. High on your agenda is economic development in order to achieve a better life for the Egyptian people. What are your priorities in this sphere?

[Mubarak] We have done a great deal in the economic field. When I assumed the presidency, I convened an economic conference. Many specialists did studies, on the basis of which we carried out economic reforms. We carried out a one five-year plan then a second five-year plan. We are now implementing the third five-year plan. We have done a lot. We seek to raise living standards. We have had many successes in this field.

When I assumed the presidency, the infrastructure was poorer than desired. We gave priority to infrastructure projects such as sewage, electricity, railroads, housing, and the modernization of factories. We traveled a long road before we reached the present stage. Our economy is now in better shape. The budget deficit has been trimmed. Inflation has been brought under control. We have foreign currency reserves, which were not available before and which were insufficient for importing the people's basic needs. We are now in a better situation.

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[Correspondent] All these projects need financing, which must come from abroad. Egypt is getting U.S. aid. You get other aid. Are there any strings attached to this aid?

[Mubarak] This is not true. We get aid from the United States, Germany, and France. There are no political strings of any kind. Inflation has been curbed. We can pay back our loans; we do not borrow as before. There is a ceiling and a red line that we do not cross. We are improving our economy. There are no political strings attached to the aid we get from the United States, Germany, and France.

[Correspondent] Some countries believe there is now one superpower. Other countries want Europe to take the place of the other superpower, which was the former Soviet Union. Do you support close links with Europe?

[Mubarak] We believe Europe is important. Since I assumed the presidency our relations with Europe have been good. They have also been good with the United States and the former Soviet Union. We have improved our relations with most states. We do not play any games with the great powers; that is not our style. Our relations with everyone are strong. We cooperate with them on strong bases.

[Correspondent] What are your hopes for closer relations with Europe?

[Mubarak] We are not trying to get closer to Europe; we have been close for a long time. This is not a new policy. We support such cooperation. We are establishing a group that will deal with the European Community and find new ways for better economic cooperation.

[Correspondent] What role can Germany play?

[Mubarak] Germany plays a basic and important role. Our relations with Germany are very important. We have many joint projects with Germany. The Mubarak-Kohl initiative is working well. We need Germany's assistance. It is a European country and we are friends.

[Correspondent] You have stated that legislative elections will be held in Egypt this year. What arrangements have been made for these elections? What do you expect to happen?

[Mubarak] The elections will not be held with party tickets, as was the case in the past. Individuals will nominate themselves as candidates. The government will not intervene in the elections. I have not given instructions to support this or that individual. Those who want to run in the elections can do so. We will not prevent anyone. But some individuals do not have the personality for competing in elections. Some people participated in previous elections as individuals, such as the members of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping party, who have six representatives in parliament.

[Correspondent] Is there any possibility that the extremists will participate?

[Mubarak] If we allow the establishment of Christian and Islamic parties, they will fight each other. The Muslims might form 15 parties and so will the Christians. We do not permit religious parties in our country.

Ambassador to Israel Comments on POW's, Ties

NC0109063595 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Report on telephone interview with Muhammad Basyuni, ambassador to Israel, in Tel Aviv, by Muhammad al-Aswad in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brothers: The Israeli army's treatment of the Egyptian POW's in the 1956 and 1967 wars has indeed preoccupied the Egyptian and Arab public. Egypt to date has not received clear answers about the facts and ramifications of the killing of these POW's, including their numbers. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry, all officials, and the public insist on receiving these answers. We will discuss this issue with Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv .

[Al-Aswad] Mr. Ambassador, Is there anything new regarding Israel's reply to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's memorandum to the Israeli Government on the POW issue?

[Basyuni] In fact, this issue is being handled quietly through diplomatic channels because it cannot be resolved through the media. There is a certain desire by both parties to reach a fair solution to this problem. As a man who fought in the 1956 and 1967 wars, the war of attrition, and the 1973 war, I want to say that this issue is sensitive and extremely important. Egypt has asked the Israeli Government for explanations. The Israeli Government expressed its views and denounced this conduct. This was clear in the message Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sent to Israeli Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein. He denounced these acts. When the issue was raised, the Israeli party said that there were excesses by the Egyptians against the Israelis during the 1973 war. We maintain that there were no excesses. Egypt calls for an investigation into these issues. Israel says that according to Israeli law, this issue is subject to the statute of limitations, because it took place 40 years ago and that the Israeli law sets 20 years as the limit for a crime's validity. We maintain that war crimes are not subject to the statute of limitations according to the

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Third Geneva Convention. These issues are being addressed judiciously through quiet diplomacy. While we emphasize the need for a fair solution to this problem, we will continue with the peace process to promote the region's future. We hope we will reach an understanding and solution to this sensitive issue in the near future.

[Al-Aswad] Mr. Ambassador, what about the current atmosphere in relations between Egypt and Israel?

[Basyuni] Egyptian-Israeli relations are normal and are governed by the common national interests of both countries. Each country pursues its national interests. The ties between the two countries are normal, not closer and not less than necessary. They are normal and aim to achieve the desired goal of a comprehensive, permanent, and fair peace in the region. [passage omitted]

MB's al-Hudaybi Comments on Ties With al-Turabi

NC3108192295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1752 GMT 31 Aug 95

[Report on interview with MB official spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] in Egypt, has talked about relations between the MB and the al-Turabi-led Arab Islamic Popular Congress [of Sudan].

[Al-Hudaybi] First of all, our relations with all Islamic establishments around the world should be normal and good. We have no organic relations or coordination with them or anybody else. This is well known, particularly as far as al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front is concerned. Al-Turabi pursues a certain line. Originally he was a member of the MB. He then left them and pursued his own line; and now he has his own establishment. It is natural for us not to have any organizational relations or coordination with him. This is well known.

[Correspondent] Talking about the Zionist's acts against Egyptian POW's, he said:

[Al-Hudaybi] We say that the Jews' morals have been known since ancient times. They believe that they are God's chosen people and that killing others brings them closer to God. Their rabbis have issued many rulings in which they say that killing non-Jewish women and children is legitimate under their Zionist creed. Their killing of Muslim POW's is not surprising, although we are surprised that the authorities did not reveal these things at the time. They still have not done so even now. It was some Israeli generals and officers who revealed it. They revealed the information as though they wanted to send a message to us, to Syria, or to the Islamic states in general so we would know what they think of us.

Dailies Praise NATO Air Raids in Bosnia

NC0109073295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0502 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH newspapers highlight NATO's decisive response to the Serb arrogance. They assert that NATO's reaction has somewhat rehabilitated NATO and the international community at a time when the Serb executioners thought no one could stop their brutal massacres against the defenseless Bosnian people.

In an editorial today, AL-AKHBAR says that NATO's large-scale air strikes came after long hesitation to destroy the radar and rocket sites that the Serb criminals used to shed the blood of the innocent civilians of Sarajevo and other safe areas and to teach the 20th century barbarians a lesson they will not forget. The paper notes that for the first time the Serbs have begun to talk about their desire for a peaceful solution to the Bosnian problem. This occurred after their conceit and arrogance reached the point when they declared they would not accept less than 96 percent of the area of Bosnia.

Commenting on the same issue, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that NATO's air raids on the Serb positions restored importance to NATO, after discovering the significance of its existence. However, the paper criticizes NATO's long delay in responding to the Serb aggression against the Muslim majority in Bosnia.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that despite Europe's sympathy for the Serbs, the latter, as European and U.S. leaders admit, have committed massacres against the Muslims about which it is no longer possible to remain silent. The Serbs' game spun out of control and began to threaten stability in southern Europe.

AL-JUMHURIYAH points out that opening the door to racism anew in Europe threatens to open the doors to hell and would enable the neo-Nazi groups to spread their dangers in various European countries. The paper asserts that Europe and the United States began to realize that the issue was not one of a Muslim people who must be protected, but is a much greater issue that involves Europe's stability in a changing world.

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Ethiopia Demands Sudan Extradite 3 'Terrorists'

NC0109124995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1228 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 1 Sep (MENA)—The Ethiopian Government has confirmed that Sudan provided shelter for terrorists who carried out the abortive attack on President Husni Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa on 26 June.

In a statement today, the Ethiopian Government asked the Sudanese Government to hand over the three terrorists implicated in the failed attack, in accordance with the treaty on the extradition of criminals signed between the two countries in 1964.

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'Udayy Said Liquidating Republican Guard Officers

NC3108153195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saddam's regime continues its oppressive measures after the defection of his sons-in-law and daughters. These measures are now taking the form of a wide-scale campaign to liquidate the Republican Guard and the security organs that surround the regime.

Sources close to the regime say that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn became the de facto commander of the Republican Guard Corps after Husayn Kamil's defection. He has liquidated many prominent officers whose loyalty is in question and who might have some connection with General Husayn Kamil and his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil.

The liquidation campaign has involved three senior officers who come from the city of Tikrit.

These measures were coupled with an official announcement by the ruling regime changing the emergency plans and the security structures that Col. Saddam Kamil supervised before defecting to Jordan with his brother.

'Udayy has also ordered snap transfers involving the Republican Guard brigades and their commanders.

RCC Extends Deadline for Army Deserters, Absentees

JN3108184695 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 95

["Text" of Revolution Command Council Decree No. 77 dated 30 August—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq
The Revolution Command Council [RCC]
Decree No. 77 dated 4 Rabi' al-Thani 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 30 August 1995.
Decree:

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed the following:

First, the deadline set in Paragraph 2 of Provision 8 of RCC Decree No. 61 dated 22 July 1995 regarding deserters or absentees from military service who are inside Iraq shall be extended for one month beginning from the said deadline.

Second, the decree shall be implemented as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC

Paragraph 2 of Provision 8 of RCC Decree No. 61 dated 22 July 1995 gives deserters or absentees from military service two weeks to give themselves up from the time the decree takes effect if they are inside Iraq.

Ekeus on Defector Information, Biological Weapons

MM3108120495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Aug 95 p 5

[Interview with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Security Council special committee on Iraqi mass-destruction weapons, by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Matar] You spoke of a political crisis in Iraq following your recent visit. Do you believe it is a real crisis that will affect decisionmaking, or is it a transient crisis that will end?

[Ekeus] What happened is out of the ordinary. Technically, Husayn Kamil had very extensive responsibilities in economic sectors and in rebuilding the infrastructure. It was significant that the establishment united against him personally, because he was the driving force. But the question is: To what extent is this linked to his political influence, whose importance varies, as one can say that his opinion was not sought and that he was politically isolated? However, there is no doubt that he has left a big vacuum in numerous spheres, including the administrative sphere. The least that can be said is that he established a major part of the security organ in Iraq. This is in addition to numerous other aspects, including the effect of his absence at the family level and psychologically. It is a major event. One cannot say it is ordinary, because it has shaken the leadership, which has not sat down to determine what can be done in the new situation.

As for the reaction we experienced, it was emotional. And the statement we received from Tariq 'Aziz points to a new policy, a change in the policy, and full cooperation with the Security Council and the special committee — which is important.

Second, this policy gives priority to economic, rather than security and military, interests, according to the statement. This matter requires strong efforts to begin to implement Security Council Resolution 687.

But the question is how serious these new positions are, because, as I said, they are the outcome of emergency measures taken as a result of Husayn Kamil's defection. That is clear, and it was clarified to me through the claim that it [the position adopted] was aimed at playing down Husayn Kamil's importance, namely through cooperation [with the committee], so that he would not enjoy a reputation of being responsible for stability and cooperation.

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[Matar] Was it Husayn Kamil who ordered that the information should be concealed from you, as reported in Iraq?

[Ekeus] We were told that it was a decision from the leadership. Tariq 'Aziz told us that he offered an opinion in support of concealing the information about the biological projects from us.

[Matar] So that is contradictory....

[Ekeus, interrupting] Certainly it is contradictory, as we can say that the focus was on the recent situation, since the work was aimed at trying to obtain some concessions through the committee, namely closing the missiles and chemical weapons files. That is, to try to reach an agreement, as they said in the spring. There are some Security Council members who supported them in their erroneous and feeble suspicion that there is a policy of renewing the aims. People said: Why should we submit the biological information, when the discussions will always be about the missiles and the chemical weapons? They told themselves: Let us freeze the missile and chemical files merely by just saying that they have been closed, then we return to work on the biological file. Certainly this is Tariq 'Aziz' policy. He proposed it to his leadership. This is why they tried in early June to say that there would be no progress at the biological level before the missile and chemical files were closed.

[Matar] But it seems that they have not closed those two files?

[Ekeus] We have not closed them either. We have just established a positive language. The biological issue was vital. We criticized the Iraqi behavior. As for the missile and chemical files, we said that there were still vital questions [outstanding]. We also said that our feeling was that they were not that important and would not pose a threat to the region's states. And they welcomed that.

[Matar] But they have now given you contradictory information.

[Ekeus] To some extent, yes.

[Matar] Did that affect your position?

[Ekeus] No. There was some new information, but it did not change our assessment. We knew what we were talking about. We did not offer a political position. But we found a good language to encourage Iraq. But it does not mean that we have moved away from the truth.

[Matar] It seems that the information they concealed in the past has now been provided, namely regarding equipment they imported in 1993.

[Ekeus] Yes. That is with regard to a current program. But we did not tackle it in our report, which concerned the previous programs. They provided new information about the previous programs as well. The information we have received is substantial and will add to the information needed to draw a bigger picture. But the project is huge and complex. Nothing in what we have received is totally new. The fact that what we have obtained is important and what we have not obtained is not important has not changed our position.

[Matar] But they imported a furnace for the missiles from France in 1993. Is that not important?

[Ekeus] Of course, the Iraqis embarked on many things after the war — things that are considered a violation of the sanctions. We are following matters carefully, and we have a good control system.

[Matar] Did they import that furnace?

[Ekeus] I do not want to comment on what they have acquired or where they obtained it.

[Matar] But they provided you with that information.

[Ekeus] (laughing) They provided us with a lot of information.

[Matar] Was that action known in France, or did the French Government have no knowledge of it?

[Ekeus] I do not want to comment on that.

[Matar] What about the agreement with Ukraine? Has it been put into effect?

[Ekeus] I do not want to comment on that. We are investigating the matter. I personally do not believe that information. We must ascertain the truth.

[Matar] You personally do not believe that information?

[Ekeus] Right. However, I must not confirm or deny anything. Your question is about how much has been implemented as regards the agreement.

[Matar] That is about Ukraine. As for France, there are assurances that the agreement has been implemented.

[Ekeus] I cannot comment.

[Matar] Regardless of the information you have about those questions, was it a surprise for you? Is it so important....

[Ekeus, interrupting] No. We set up a system that can withstand shocks (surprises) — a system that can withstand tests. This system should work against whatever is aimed at violating it, and it is working.

[Matar] You were asked a question at the Security Council about your previous position that Iraq has

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disappeared as a strategic threat to the region. After the new discoveries, do you believe you were wrong in your assessment?

[Ekeus] Certainly there is one main concern as regards the biological issue, namely: Has Iraq destroyed all the elements belonging to it as they told us after the war? This is a major question on which our inspectors are working. This is the first problem. As for the second problem, it is the radical nature of the program, which is a secret one.

[Matar] So you are saying that Iraq continues to pose a threat to the region?

[Ekeus] What I am saying is that we do not expect Iraq to pose a threat in the missile, chemical, and nuclear spheres. As for the biological sphere, we still have reservations about reaching a conclusion that the Iraqi threat has disappeared. I am not saying that Iraq is not a threat. I am saying that such [biological] weapons are not in a state that would enable them to pose a threat. But if Iraq decides to use them, they would pose a threat.

[Matar] Some people said that Husayn Kamil informed the Americans and others that Iraq is not capable of fitting biological warheads to the missiles in its possession. Are you sure of that, and have you destroyed these missiles?

[Ekeus] They admitted that they fitted biological warheads to al-Husayn missiles. And we know that they fitted biological warheads to bombs. We also know that it [Iraq] has large [quantities] of biological munitions, but we are not sure about their effectiveness.

[Matar] Have you begun to dismantle any of them?

[Ekeus] Iraq says that it destroyed them in August 1991. But we are concerned about some of them, especially those that still have not been located or accounted for. We knew about that before. We are sure of it now. We are not sure about their claim that they have destroyed them, as we still have not been able to ascertain what they said in practice. In addition, we know that Iraq produced more biological elements than it reported to us during my visit before last. Our experts discovered that later. These elements are stored in Iraq.

Iraq is also capable of manufacturing bombs — which means that it is capable of filling these bombs with biological elements. However, I do not believe that they are capable of producing these elements.

[Matar] But you seem to be saying that they are capable of fitting biological warheads to missiles that have a range of about 50 km that could be fired against a neighboring state.

[Ekeus] Yes, they are certainly capable of that. I said that we have not got figures about the destruction of which they spoke. This is why we are concerned. Iraq is saying that it has destroyed everything.

[Matar] Is Husayn Kamil's information about 1991 or about the current situation?

[Ekeus] We do not want to reveal the information he has provided to us, nor do we want to reveal to the Iraqi side what Husayn Kamil has informed us of.

[Matar] Did he offer you more than you have obtained from Iraq?

[Ekeus] Yes. There was additional information. Some of it was consistent but did not differ fundamentally [from that offered by Iraq].

[Matar] So can you say that Iraq continues to pose a threat to the region?

[Ekeus] If they use their [current] capabilities, they cannot pose a threat in the chemical, long-range missiles, or nuclear spheres in the near future. As for biological weapons, we are not sure.

[Matar] So they continue to pose a threat to neighboring states?

[Ekeus] We cannot confirm anything in this connection.

[Matar] What about the conventional military threat?

[Ekeus] Iraq itself is always boasting that it can occupy Kuwait with one military division. Certainly it has the military capability. But does it have the political capability? I do not want to offer a special assessment. However, the Iraqis now have strongly expressed their peaceful intentions to me. They informed me of their focus on economic priorities and their decision to cooperate fully with the United Nations without any particular conditions regarding the schedule.

[Matar] How many times have they offered you such assurances?

[Ekeus] True, we have in the past received similar statements. So we cannot trust these statements. We are examining the information and documents we have received to decide whether to trust them.

[Matar] Do you mean the information found by chance on Husayn Kamil's farm?

[Ekeus] Yes. The special forces said that it was his farm. The documents were actually there, because we were informed that the special forces were surprised and shocked when they found large quantities of these documents or similar documents, according to them.

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This is why they proposed to me that we go to the farm to see the documents.

What they did was preplanned. It was not a diplomatic measure. True, we saw there a large quantity of documents, which had clearly been put there recently, as there was no dust on them or any evidence that they had been stored there. So we are convinced that the documents were put there by the special forces. But we do not know who issued the orders to these forces to do that.

[Matar] Do you believe that Husayn Kamil was behind the orders not to provide you with the information?

[Ekeus] No, no. I do not think so. When I met him for the first time in 1991, he was in the forefront of those opposed to providing us with the information, especially with regard to the nuclear issue. But that issue emerged during the incident of the Agriculture Ministry, which contained some documents. So our policy then was certainly to protect the information and documents. But recent information suggests that he is for providing us with the information. Iraq is saying the opposite.

[Matar] What about Lieutenant General 'Amir al-Rashid?

[Ekeus] He now has serious responsibility in light of the new situation in Iraq.

[Matar] Who in Iraq is responsible for dealing with you?

[Ekeus] Tariq 'Aziz. There are also two other officials, one of whom is Lt. Gen. 'Amir.

[Matar] Do you mean that Lt. Gen. 'Amir works under Tariq 'Aziz at present?

[Ekeus] In the political sense, yes. But he is also responsible for the dialogue and the talks.

[Matar] Is he accusing you of sucking the Iraqi people's blood?

[Ekeus] No. They are not putting the blame on me now; they are blaming one another.

[Matar] So do they believe that Husayn Kamil is the one sucking the Iraqi people's blood?

[Ekeus] Yes. And in their opinion, he is also a traitor.

[Matar] It seems that you have become the only beneficiary from the crisis.

[Ekeus] Yes. No one can accuse me, now that it has been revealed that it was Iraq that has been delaying a possible lifting of the sanctions.

[Matar] Was there any possibility of that in the past?

[Ekeus] I think there were opportunities and possibilities before. When the [Security] Council unanimously wrote a clause saying "the sanctions shall be lifted and an import and export system for armaments drawn up 45 days after Iraq's implementation [of the resolutions]," it meant that the council had thought that Iraqi compliance would be quick. And of course, there was general concern over oil prices — which affected international thinking.

[Matar] Do you think that the Iraqis really believe that just the completion of your mission will lead to lifting the sanctions?

[Ekeus] I believe that they are of the same opinion as Madeleine Albright, U.S. representative at the United Nations, that the arms aspect is an essential step, but in itself is not sufficient, as they believe that the arms aspect is fair. However, they do not share her views on the second part of the statement.

However, Iraq's credibility has been affected negatively and deeply by the recent developments. It must first regain the minimum threshold of credibility, which we will try to help it to achieve if it wants to.

[Matar] Isn't this exactly what I heard you say three years ago?

[Ekeus] Yes, that is true, regrettably....

[Matar, interrupting] What leads you to believe that you will succeed this time?

[Ekeus] I am not saying that I seriously believe the Iraqi shift, but I said that I believe this experiment to be a major event, imposing a new reality. And we must not underestimate the importance of this major event, as it means there will be some benefits in the near future. But on the basis of our experience, I know I must not be overoptimistic.

[Matar] In the past, you played a part in the POW's issue; have you done anything in that respect lately?

[Ekeus] Yes, but I don't know how this operation will end this time. I believe that the present climate in Iraq is pushing them to make an effort to remove this hurdle.

[Matar] By saying that Husayn Kamil killed them?

[Ekeus] I don't know. But there is to be a meeting, and we will then see if there is progress. They are saying that they want to comply fully with Resolution 687 in its entirety. We have to wait, maybe they're saying this just for the purpose of acquiring weapons, and I could offer further interpretations.

[Matar] What is Tariq Aziz's political position at present?

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[Ekeus] It seems that he has been given wider political powers to negotiate with us, and this is certainly a result of the vacuum left by Husayn Kamil's departure.

[Matar] Are you satisfied with Husayn Kamil's cooperation with you?

[Ekeus] Of course, but I can't be sure that he is cooperating fully.

[Matar] Will you make sure that both Husayn Kamil and Baghdad are providing accurate information by cross-checking the information they give you?

[Ekeus] That must be done of course, and I would be stupid if I didn't do it.

[Matar] To what extent do you think that Husayn Kamil wants to cooperate with you?

[Ekeus] I think he has announced that legitimate preoccupations with Iraqi national security interests are not a political matter, and therefore I think that he will safeguard them. However, what we are asking for has nothing to do with Iraqi national security, what we are asking for is what is stipulated in the Security Council resolutions, and with that, we will build a good relationship.

[Matar] What benefits does he gain by giving you information?

[Ekeus] I think he wants to show the Iraqi people that he is the driving force behind the new climate in the Security Council. He may not have international intentions, but he wants to show that to the Iraqi people.

[Matar] You recently mentioned that he was totally against that in 1991?

[Ekeus] Of course. But they did not realize then that we would be so organized, and that we would be so firm in dealing with them. Nor did they believe that the Security Council would remain as committed as it did. They held a different view concerning the history of the lifting of sanctions and the international support for continued supervision. I believe this was a surprise for Iraq and its efforts, and its effect was that it affected their credibility so that their public attacks against us failed miserably.

[Matar] Are you saying that Husayn Kamil really believes that he will be Iraq's savior?

[Ekeus] I think he is consistent and believes he has the ability to do it. He is also sure of himself.

[Matar] Do you believe in his ability?

[Ekeus] I don't want to comment on that.

[Matar] Do you believe he can play a political part?

[Ekeus] Yes, I certainly believe he can. He has very good connections with numerous officials, and evidently a connection with King Husayn. Jordan is not in the state of disarray that Iraq is going through.

[Matar] Do you believe there is a new political group in Iraq?

[Ekeus] I don't think there are any political groups in Iraq.

[Matar] I mean King Husayn and Husayn Kamil....

[Ekeus, interrupting] I don't want to comment, but it is apparent that Jordan is following the situation closely.

[Matar] Do you believe that King Husayn, by not stopping oil imports from Iraq and not closing the border, is giving the Iraqi regime a chance to remain in power?

[Ekeus] I believe that Jordan sees an economic and human necessity to keep the border open.

[Matar] A necessity for Jordan or Iraq?

[Ekeus] I said economic and human, and I believe that this means either side of the border.

[Matar] Do you believe that if Jordan closed the border, the Iraqi regime would disintegrate and fall?

[Ekeus] I don't want to comment on that.

[Matar] The committee's credibility is at the highest level, and there are at present no negative queries by some Security Council members concerning you; in your opinion, how effective is the council's position regarding settling the matter?

[Ekeus] There is some confusion in the perception of the council's position sometimes, and I secretly know that there are differences of opinion among the members concerning the pace of work and the conditions for lifting the sanctions, but what was obvious during these years was the total support for the necessity to control and oversee Iraq. This support is continuous and this is what surprised Iraq. It has not affected the committee's work in a negative way.

[Matar] When we mention the position of Russia, France, and China on lifting oil sanctions, to what extent do you believe this position has helped Iraq?

[Ekeus] I am always concerned over these self-interested positions which say that, if the council did not adopt those positions, Iraq would still keep a biological program.... And that is a great mistake.

[Matar] Do you believe France and Russia will maintain their positions?

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[Ekeus] I believe that most council members are reviewing their positions and projects to start a new evaluation and a new policy, and I don't wish to surmise on future positions.

[Matar] You told me before that France and Russia's position stemmed perhaps from their desire to confront Iran through a strong Iraq...

[Ekeus] What I said and I still say is that nobody will allow Iraq to be dismembered.

[Matar] Militarily, do you believe Iraq is capable of invading Jordan and Kuwait now?

[Ekeus] It is capable of that, especially in the South.

[Matar] That is to say it has the capability of invading Kuwait.

[Ekeus] Yes. That is from a military viewpoint, but from a political viewpoint, I don't know.

[Matar] Therefore the traditional Iraqi threat is still there.

[Ekeus] It is a threat. But this depends on the political position.

Defector Assesses Saddam's Survival Chances

AU3108190395 Hamburg STERN in German 31 Aug 95 p 130

[Interview with General Husayn Kamil by unidentified corresondent; place and date not given: "The People Want To Call it a Day With Saddam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [STERN] General Husayn Kamil Hasan, why did you flee Iraq?

[Husayn] It is no secret that the people of Iraq, like the people in the rest of the Arab world, do not have confidence in Saddam Husayn. I had to do something to get rid of the country's leadership because it is oppressing the people and betraying its own citizens. The regime has built palaces for itself and squandered the wealth of the country, because it has become solely interested in itself. Someone who flees under such circumstances does not betray his country. It is a case of the government of the country betraying its own citizens.

[STERN] You were a high-ranking member of Saddam Husayn's government. It is said that you were in a weaker position in the power struggle with Saddam's son 'Udayy and that is why you went.

[Husayn] 'Udayy is a nut. Everyone knows that he is mad and that he oppresses both ministers and officials. He tries to oppress everyone. He does not possess much intelligence. His father knows that, too. However, he is not in a position to stop his son. That was the situation on 7 August at a party to mark the end of the war between Iran and Iraq shortly before I fled. 'Udayy fired shots at his nephew Abid and his father's half-brother, Watban. The latter was hit nine times and had to have a leg amputated. Watban is still alive, but it would be better for him to be dead, because his lower abdomen and genitals have been completely destroyed. Everyone knows that 'Udayy is capable of something like that. It was not the first time. He has killed six women. However, no one has punished him for his deeds.

[STERN] What kind of life does Saddam Husayn lead today?

[Husayn] He lives in isolation among a small circle of confidantes who have no idea what is really going on in the country. They are the same people with whom he has surrounded himself over the past 12 years. They are his bodyguards. They tell him everything imaginable and he still believes them.

[STERN] Is it true that Saddam planned to attack Kuwait once again?

[Husayn] Yes, the troops that were recently dispatched to al-Basrah were to enter Kuwait and the eastern part of Saudi Arabia. All the military leaders knew about that. The plan was discussed during cabinet meetings that I attended. All high-ranking functionaries in the Ba'ath Party also knew about it.

[STERN] Did the military really believe that such an invasion could be a success?

[Husayn] The regime was convinced of that. They have no idea of the extent to which the people have become alienated from the government. The people would have either ignored the call to war or have heeded it unwillingly. They are afraid. Anyone who refuses to obey not only has to fear for himself, but also for his father and mother, brothers and sisters, and more distant relatives. Their property would definitely be confiscated.

[STERN] Having fled Iraq, will you cooperate with the rest of the world and, for example, tell UN special envoy Rolf Ekeus all that you know?

[Husayn] The regime has already taken preemptive action and invited Ekeus to Iraq to inform him about all manner of secrets. They want to create the impression that I had withheld all that information until now and am thus responsible for the UN embargo against the country. That is a lie. I cannot tell the UN diplomat more than he has already learned in Baghdad. Over the past few years, Saddam Husayn has been personally responsible for everything. He issued instructions to special units to safeguard secrets well.

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[STERN] Does Saddam Husayn have his back against the wall now? Will the dictator be toppled shortly?

[Husayn] It is possible that there might be a putsch or there might be a popular uprising. No one can live in harmony with such a regime. It governs by means of brutality, ignorance, and murder threats. That is why the Republican Guard and special forces act against everyone. There is no more room in the prisons. At least 400 people are waiting on death row, while at the same time, convicted murderers are running around Baghdad freely because they have paid bribes. The people want to call it a day with the regime. They are just waiting for the right time.

Barzan al-Tikriti Says No Plan To Join Opposition

MM3108154495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Report on interview with Barzan al-Tikriti, "half-brother of President Saddam Husayn and Iraq's representative to the UN European headquarters," by Chief Editor Jihad al-Khazin in Geneva on 30 August]

[FBIS Translated Text] Barzan al-Tikriti, brother of President Saddam Husayn, has announced that he is staying in his position inside the regime. He vehemently criticized Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil, accusing him of being one of the causes of Iraq's catastrophe. He also criticized 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, saying that he, like Husayn Kamil, is not qualified to govern, nor does he know the limits of his size and ability.

Iraq's representative to the UN European headquarters was speaking to AL-HAYAH's chief editor in his office in Geneva yesterday. The interview lasted 90 minutes. It dealt with all the issues raised as regards the Iraqi president's half-brother in the wake of the defection to Jordan of the industry minister [Husayn Kamil] and his brother Saddam Kamil together with the Iraqi president's two daughters, in addition to some escorts, earlier this month.

Al-Tikriti denied any intention of joining the opposition. He also denied that he is in contact with the Iraqi opposition abroad. However, he did not express much enthusiasm for the regime in Baghdad. He said, "If I decide to go into opposition, I will do it in my own way."

Al-Tikriti described Husayn Kamil as an extremist and fanatic who always led an opposition campaign inside the government against the [UN] committee inspecting the weapons, urging noncooperation with the United Nations. And he ordered Iraqi soldiers to open fire on the international inspectors in 1992 and caused a crisis. He was also behind the Agriculture Ministry incident when he refused to hand to the inspectors documents linked to their mission.

He [al-Tikriti] added that Saddam Husayn relied chiefly on Husayn Kamil in his work, even though he is not specialized as a military man, engineer, or politician. In 1975 he was a driver in the president's motorcade, then the Iraqi president granted him a number of promotions he did not deserve, so he became able to see him day and night. And he is responsible for the catastrophe.

[Al-Khazin] So why did Husayn Kamil flee?

[Al-Tikriti] To become a head of state. It seems that someone deluded him and told him that he could become head of state. Or maybe he left the country in order to rest and enjoy the money he had collected, since he stayed [in office] for 10 years, namely from 1985 to 1995. He was in control of 72 percent of Iraq's money. The bribes, commissions, and scandals were exposed later.

[Al-Khazin] Did he leave the country because he lost the confrontation with 'Udayy Saddam Husayn?

[Al-Tikriti] I have no information. I have not seen Husayn Kamil or 'Udayy for 14 years. Nor do I know the mentality of either of them. However, I know they are greedy.

[Al-Khazin] What are the chances of Husayn Kamil coming to power?

[Al-Tikriti] What is his legitimate social, political, or economic status? He became a Ba'thist only late in the seventies. His legitimacy is merely due to the fact that he is married to the president's daughter. Had it not been for that, no one would have paid any attention to him. He is now talking about his tribe, but inside this tribe there is a complete generation ahead of him. He is a reckless, aggressive, harsh, and discourteous boy.

There are Arabs, Kurds, Christians, Yazidis, and numerous minorities. What legitimate status has Husayn Kamil got in order to rally them around him? There are deep wounds between him and the Iraqi Kurds. When a Kurdish delegation came to Baghdad, he was the severest in attacking them. He described them as agents. Ask Jalal Talabani [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan leader]. Ask Mas'ud Barzani [Kurdistan Democratic Party leader]. How can the Iraqi Shiites deal with him, when he hit the tomb of Imam al-Husayn Bin-'Ali?

[Al-Khazin] So what is the way out of the crisis in Iraq?

[Al-Tikriti] The way out is for Iraq to fully implement the UN resolutions. We are about to implement these resolutions.

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[Al-Khazin] But Husayn Kamil says that Iraq intended a few months ago to invade Kuwait and the eastern province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that Iraq would have produced a nuclear bomb six months after the occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

[Al-Tikriti] That is sophistry. He is saying anything, and his statements should not be taken seriously. Rolf Ekeus' committee and the [International] Atomic Energy [Agency] committee announced that Iraq has not got the capability to produce a nuclear weapon.

[Al-Khazin] And the attack story?

[Al-Tikriti] I have heard of that story only from him. The Western states know that six years of the blockade on Iraq have affected its forces, mechanized units, and equipment. Even if it is still capable of attacking a small country like Kuwait, Kuwait has international alliances protecting it.

Absolute logic refutes these allegations. If Iraq occupied Kuwait, the eastern province [of Saudi Arabia], and Jordan, it would be returning to square one regarding its relations with the UN Security Council, the major states, and the Arab states. If it owns all that oil, who is going to buy it? No one is buying Iraq's oil. Iraq stayed in Kuwait for seven months, during which it could not sell Kuwaiti or Iraqi oil. So there is no benefit, nor is it possible.

The Kuwaitis believe [Husayn Kamil] because they were burned by the fire, and it is easy for them to believe (Husayn Kamil's allegations about a plan to occupy Kuwait). And the Americans pretend to believe [him] so that they could dispatch their force, and the Arabs would pay the bills. I have heard that last October's crisis (when Iraq reportedly deployed forces near the Kuwaiti border) cost $40 million.

[Al-Khazin] Are you saying that Iraq will not invade Kuwait again?

[Al-Tikriti] No, Iraq will not invade Kuwait again. We have recognized Kuwait, the borders have been demarcated, and Iraq is now seeking to normalize relations with all the Arab states, including Kuwait.

[Al-Khazin] How can the Kuwaitis trust Iraq again?

[Al-Tikriti] Do not blame the Kuwaitis if they lose their confidence in the Iraqi regime. Kuwait is a small state, and the Kuwaitis think that their problem is unprecedented in history. But how long can one continue to weep over the ruins? One should learn from the past in order to avert mistakes. One should not weep over the past 24 hours a day. There are between us and Kuwait ties of kinship, language, religion, and social and economic interaction.

[Al-Khazin] They [the ties] disappeared in the war.

[Al-Tikriti] Did they disappear between Germany and France? Iraq and Kuwait are closer to one another than Germany to France.

[Al-Khazin] Are you saying that the invasion of Kuwait was a mistake?

[Al-Tikriti] Mistake or not, one should not unearth the past, except to benefit from it for the future.

[Al-Khazin] Why do you not resolve the questions of the prisoners of war, then?

[Al-Tikriti] There are no Kuwaiti prisoners of war in Iraq. There are missing persons, but the Kuwaitis insist that there are prisoners of war. The question of the prisoners of war has become a bargaining card in Kuwait used to strengthen the hands of anyone holding it and taking control of that dossier. I affirm that there are no prisoners of war. Besides, what benefit would we get from having them? In 1993 I personally carried a written message from President Saddam Husayn to King Hassan II, in which he proposed the formation of an Arab committee, chaired by Morocco with the participation of Kuwait, to search the whole of Iraq for the prisoners of war. King Hassan sent an emissary to Kuwait, namely Abdelhadi Boutaleb. But the Kuwaitis did not respond and the matter was closed. [al-Tikriti ends]

The dialogue then moved to another subject, namely, President Husni Mubarak's offer during his interview with the chief editor of AL-HAYAH last week to accept President Saddam Husayn as a political refugee in Egypt. Commenting on this, Al-Tikriti said: For all my respect to President Mubarak, I cannot discuss his statement. But President Saddam Husayn is not the type of person who would ask for political asylum or agree to live outside his country. He will not evade responsibility and lay it at the door of others. If he were to abandon power, the situation would become worse. For Iraq is in need of a person who is capable of rallying the country around him. The regime will not collapse and even if President Saddam were to remain alone and with only one bullet left, he would continue to resist. Besides, who could succeed him? Husayn Kamil?

[Al-Khazin] You, for example.

[Al-Tikriti] Iraq is not a monarchy, where the son or brother would replace the king. Iraq is a republican country and is ruled by a revolutionary party. There are people in the command who have been there for 25 or 30 years, while Husayn Kamil's age is only 42 years.

[Al-Khazin] But 'Udayy is grooming himself to assume power?

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[Al-Tikriti] I do not know whether he is grooming himself for this or not. If every person knew his size and capabilities, many problems would be saved. Problems come from people who are not aware of their real size. Inheritance of power is unacceptable in Iraq. People will not accept either 'Udayy or Husayn Kamil, for neither of them possesses any legitimacy to assume power. [al-Tikriti ends]

[Al-Khazin] I asked him whether he will join the opposition or leave Geneva for another Arab country. He replied: "I will not join the opposition. And if I choose to go into opposition, I will do so in my own way. For this [the current opposition's methods] is not suitable for tackling Iraq's problem. I have no intention of going to any Arab country. We shall live honorably and die honorably."

The discussion then turned to the question of the apparent rifts within Saddam Husayn's family: Watban, full brother of Barzan al-Tikriti, is suffering from injuries he received when he was shot in the legs and Saddam's two daughters have defected with their husbands. Al-Tikriti said that Watban was really injured, but he does not have any information [about how it happened]. As to the defection of the two daughters with their husbands, al-Tikriti pointed out that both Western and Eastern traditions meet in regard to women following their husbands and obeying their orders. With regard to Saddam's two daughters, Husayn Kamil was scheduled to visit Bulgaria and so he proposed to the two ladies that they accompany the visiting delegation. As a long time had passed without their leaving Iraq, they agreed to travel. Now they cannot return or they are not allowed to return.

I asked al-Tikriti about King Husayn's recent letter and his implicit call for a change in Iraq. He said that King Husayn delivered balanced statements prior to his recent speech. He had called for the lifting of the embargo on Iraq, or else for it to be said whether what is wanted is to topple the regime in Iraq. "Perhaps his latest speech marks the beginning of a new era. Perhaps Jordan has a strategy for a new era, just as all countries do."

I said to al-Tikriti that matters have been developing at a fast pace. What does he envisage the situation will be for Iraq? He replied: "I am optimistic, but it is a conditional optimism. I have felt optimistic about Husayn Kamil's operation, because he was not merely an obstacle but rather a boulder on the road to Iraq's return to the international community. He had put a ring around the president and prevented others from seeing him.

"Despite the harsh conditions it is passing through, Iraq is in need of the drawing up of a program of which all possible parts would be implemented in the various fields and which would ensure sharing of power, human rights, party plurality, freedom of the press, reliance on specialized people, the holding of parliamentary elections, and the adoption of some of the points made by the opposition. I am in my early forties, and so I do not know Salih Jabr [not further identified]. But I know that his father was a prime minister in Iraq. In fact, I do not know the opposition. The government is not afraid of the opposition and is only biding time, waiting for the right moment.

"Likewise, relations with the Arab countries should be built and common interests protected. Indeed, Iraq is ready to sit with the Americans and discuss the interests of each side and the protection of the interests of both sides.

"I hope the Arabs will find what has already happened sufficient, for it is sufficient for anyone who wants to derive a lesson and benefit from it. Today, we must open a new chapter and not cry over the ruins, because what has happened has happened and nothing can change it."

I asked al-Tikriti when was the last time he went to Iraq and whether he would go again if he were asked.... He confessed that he has not been to Iraq for some time, adding that he has no intention of going to Iraq at present. But should the Iraqi Foreign Ministry ask him to come to Iraq, he would go. But it was evident that he was not all that enthusiastic about this idea. He said that it is a long way, for he has to fly in the first instance to Amman and then travel by car overland for hundreds of kilometers.

I asked him then about the Iraqi opposition's accusation that he is the one who administers the state's funds or the [al-Tikriti] family's funds abroad. He replied: Is it logical for Iraq to have all these funds and nobody could find out where they are stashed? This is impossible. The accusations do not speak of millions or hundreds of millions but tens of billions. The whereabouts of such huge funds cannot be concealed from the Americans or the Western powers. These are suspicions that I believe even those who disseminate them do not believe.

The interview was concluded by reverting to the past. I wanted to know if the then foreign minister Tariq 'Aziz and Barzan himself had made any recommendations to the Iraqi president following the famous consultations in Geneva with former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Al-Tikriti said that there were no recommendations. All that happened was that the foreign minister submitted a report to Saddam Husayn about the details of what happened during the meeting. He added that the Geneva meeting had taken place on 12 January 1991 and that the Iraqi delegation returned to Baghdad on the 15th

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of the same month, that is only two days prior to the start of the air war. Anyway, he said, the American side did not present an offer openly saying, withdraw from Kuwait and thus avoid the war. They only said withdraw. Baker spent 70 percent of the time threatening Iraq with the devastation that would take place, saying that his country would push the Iraqis back to the days before the Industrial Revolution. "Thus we thought that fighting outside our borders was better than fighting inside our country."

Al-Tikriti elected that the interview should not be recorded. He also declined to have his picture taken. The editor-in-chief was accompanied during the interview by colleague Ra'uf Qubaysi, who was in Geneva at the time on another mission.

Opposition Radio: Saddam To Form New Government

NC3108153695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a desperate attempt to restore cohesion to his collapsing regime, Baghdad tyrant Saddam Husayn has asked former Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi to form a new government that does not depend on members of his family as much as it depends on professionals. This comes in the wake of the setback for Saddam when his sons-in-law Husayn and Saddam Kamil al-Majid and his two daughters defected to Jordan early this month.

The Iraqi opposition said in a statement yesterday that Hammadi has refused to join any government, with the excuse that he is old and has been out of politics for a long time.

The opposition adds that Saddam has contacted other well-known Iraqi figures and invited them to join the new government. Among these are Naji Talib, who was prime minister in 1966; Major General Rajab 'Abd-al-Majid, a former deputy prime minister; and Colonel Subhi 'Abd-al-Majid, a former minister.

The opposition sources add that the Iraqi dictator wants to give more government influence to the Ba'th Party with a view to curbing the influence of his family members, particularly in the wake of recent family disputes.

Paper Says Iraq Can Confront 'New Conspiracy'

JN3108113195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)— The newspaper BABIL has stressed that the U.S. Administration's objectives behind scaring the rulers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia from Iraq is to continue to extort these two regimes and to fabricate pretexts to continue a military presence in the region.

In an editorial today, the paper says: Since 9 August, the U.S. propaganda machine and the suspect trumpets have been launching a media campaign against Iraq. Along with this campaign, the rapid deployment force was put on a state of alert, and part of it was sent to Kuwait. Joint maneuvers began in Kuwait and other areas with British participation.

The paper adds: After the 30-state military aggression has failed to achieve its objectives, and after all the chapters of aggression were foiled and Iraq emerged stronger, steadfast, and adhering to its national objectives and interests; and when there were clear signs that the UN Security Council would lift the oil embargo — particularly following the assurances made by the UN Special Commission chairman — after all this, the United States had no choice but to conspire again.

The paper says: Our experience in dealing with the colonialist states shows that these campaigns and movements, whose declared justifications were based on sheer lies about unusual movements by the Iraqi Armed Forces — our experience, and that of the world peoples, tell us that there is a very bad smell in the air.

Concluding its article, the paper says: The Iraqi people's awareness and principles are great. The Iraqi people are also great in their capabilities and courage of confronting the aggressors and plotters. In the past, they buried all conspiracies which were aimed at undermining their independence and sovereignty, and plundering their resources. Their awareness now is greater, and they are more capable of confronting and burying the new conspiracy.

Papers Report, Comment on Relations With Jordan

JN3108174695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Iraqi papers AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-THAWRAH, AL-QADISIYAH, AL-'IRAQ, and BABIL published during the period 9 to 23 August 1995 have not been observed to criticize Jordan for granting political asylum to Iraqi defectors General Husayn Kamil and Colonel Saddam Kamil. On the contrary, they have given front page coverage to reports and statements by Iraqi and Jordanian sources, praising and defending existing relations, especially in the economic field. The papers appear to single out statements by Jordanian popular forces and opposition figures defending these relations. The papers report cables of support to Saddam by the Jordanian popular committees for solidarity with Iraq in Irbid and

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al-'Aqabah, Jordanian Foreign Minister al-Kabariti's statement assuring Jordanian businessmen that Jordan will not sever economic relations with Iraq and that improvement of relations with the Gulf states would not be at the expense of Iraqi-Jordanian relations, Jordanian press comments on upholding Iraqi-Jordanian ties, Jordanian Energy Minister Darwazah's statement that Jordan will continue to import oil from Iraq, Iraqi spokesman's statement following the 19 August cabinet meeting under Saddam denying any Iraqi military buildup directed at Jordan, announcing that Iraq views its relationship with Jordan on the basis of the "great principles of pan-Arabism," and affirming that Jordan's relations with other Arab states would not affect Iraqi enthusiasm for its economic ties with Jordan.

The emphasis by both sides to maintain existing relations is reflected in a 300-word dispatch datelined Baghdad published on page two of the 22 August issue of BABIL under the column "According to Foreign News Agencies." The paper begins by saying: "Iraqi papers published on Monday describe U.S. attempts to sabotage Jordanian- Iraqi relations as futile. They affirm Iraq's desire to maintain these relations." The paper then goes on to review an article by AL-THAWRAH (filed as JN2108102895) saying Jordanians will not be deceived by U.S. stories about an Iraqi military buildup directed at Jordan and affirming Iraq's desire to maintain the good fraternal relations with Jordan. The paper adds: "It is noteworthy that Iraq has not openly criticized Jordan for granting political asylum to the renegade Husayn Kamil on 15 August."

The paper says: "The U.S. Administration has leaked reports to the press that it wants to persuade Jordan to sever its economic relations with Iraq in exchange for resurrecting Jordan's relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states which were severed in 1990." "However," the paper adds "King Husayn denied on Saturday that Robert Pelletreau, U.S. under secretary of state for near eastern affairs, had made such an offer during their meeting last Thursday. He affirmed that the border between the two countries will remain open, describing Iraq as Jordan's strategic depth and Jordan as the lung through which Iraq breathes." BABIL also publishes a 100-word dispatch datelined Kuwait on the same page under the headline: "Washington Asks Kuwait To Supply Oil to Amman."

However, since 23 August, the day King Husayn delivered his speech to the nation (filed as jn2308190595 and adds) alluding to Iraqi plans to invade Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and demanding that Iraq fulfill all its obligation under UN resolutions, including the release of Kuwaiti missing persons; a speech which was followed on 24 and 28 August by Iraqi TV releasing videotape recordings of General Husayn Kamil's purported remarks against Jordan (JN2408183795, JN2808193495) Iraqi papers, but especially BABIL, appear to have veered from the original line of reporting on Iraqi- Jordanian relations. Baghdad AL-THAWRAH of 25 August publishes a transcription of General Husayn Kamil's remarks under the headline: "Disclosure of Traitor Husayn Kamil's Role in Sabotaging Relationship With Fraternal Jordan." The newspaper BABIL of 26 August publishes a 250-word report (filed as jn3108104495) also within the "According to Foreign News Agencies" column under the headline: "King Husayn Severs His Relations with Baghdad; Gets Closer to Riyadh and Kuwait." BABIL of 27 August publishes on page two a 300-word dispatch datelined Tripoli under the headline: "Tripoli Accuses King Husayn of Facilitating U.S. Occupation of the Arab Homeland." The dispatch is a Libyan news agency comment on King Husayn's 23 August speech. The paper publishes on the same page a 200-word AFP dispatch datelined Amman under the headline: "Islamic Action Front Calls on Jordanians To Oppose Estrangement With Baghdad." The dispatch cites an IAF statement "accusing the Jordanian Government of pursuing policies conflicting with the people's will and interests."

Islamic 'Resistance' Kills 60 Soldiers in South

JN3108142095 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a daring and successful jihad operation, the Islamic resistance forces have attacked an official conference hall used by the regime during a meeting attended by hundreds of the regime's military and party officials in a city in southern Iraq recently. The conferees were discussing how to salvage the deteriorating situation the despot's regime is facing.

Our sources in the south which reported the attack said that the mujahidin carried out the attack with light and medium weapons, killing 60 military personnel. Our mujahidin also captured 40 others, most of them intelligence mercenaries and from the so-called Saddam's commandos.

Our sources said that the meeting also discussed how to escalate confrontation between the regime's mercenaries and our forces following the despot's failure to confront our forces' successful operations and check cooperation between them and our people.

Opposition Figures Issue Appeal to Armed Forces

NC3108154495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition figures have issued an appeal to the sons of the Iraqi Armed Forces

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to undertake their responsibility to save the people and the homeland. The appeal called on all those in the orbit of the Baghdad authority to change loyalty and join the people in the trenches.

Following a preliminary meeting on 24 August, the opposition figures stressed the need to respect, and not ignore, the will of the Iraqi people in matters that affect Iraq's future. The statement issued after the meeting stressed that the disintegration of the ruling family in Iraq makes the Iraqi people look forward to the dawn of [word indistinct] to establish a regime that expresses their free will without any form of foreign mandate.

The statement praised the struggle of the Iraqi people in the south, the central area, and the north, calling for a national project based on established principles: the unity of Iraq's territory and people and the independence of its political will.

The statement appealed to all Iraqi opposition organizations to shoulder their historic responsibility and fare the challenges.

RCC Decree Authorizes Confiscation of Money

JN3108152495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Revolution Command Council has issued a decree authorizing the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, the Public Security Directorate, the Customs Department, and the party organizations to confiscate money intended to be smuggled, as well as money that is banned from circulation in the local market.

Iraqi Kurdish Parties on PKK Attacks on KDP

NC3108120095 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 28 Aug 95 pp 1, A8

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara—The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is outlawed in Turkey where it is waging a bloody separatist war, has simultaneously attacked around 20 bases and offices of the northern Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in Dahuk province, KDP sources reported over the weekend.

The KDP's deadly rival in northern Iraq, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] lead by Jalal Talabani, for its part denied all suggestions that it was involved in the PKK attacks. KDP sources are suggesting that the PUK was displeased with a recent U.S.- sponsored accord between the rival Kurdish groups and was using the PKK to create an environment to pull out of this accord.

A written statement faxed to the TURKISH DAILY NEWS by the KDP— one of the two main Kurdish groups in northern Iraq—said the unprecedented PKK attack took place on Saturday [26 August] morning. "This unprovoked aggression by the PKK who retain some armed presence in the region is aimed at controlling certain areas to make their presence felt and to disrupt the recent initial peace agreement signed by the KDP and the PUK on 9-11 August in Ireland under the auspices of the U.S. government and the participation of the Turkish government representatives as well as the Iraqi National Congress" the KDP statement said. The PUK and the KDP were involved in bitter internecine fighting until the meeting in Drogheda, Ireland, referred to in the statement.

That fighting, which began in May 1994, has left up to 3,000 dead, local sources in northern Iraq say.

This is the first time the KDP has accused the PKK of attacking its bases in northern Iraq.

"Around 01.00 hours this morning (Saturday) PKK armed groups attacked KDP positions and offices in al-'Amadiyah, Zakho, Bamirni, Batufah, Sersank, Mirga Sur. heavy fighting broke out, and the attackers, who made some initial gains, were repulsed in the afternoon by a KDP counterattack in which the local population played an important role, and all the areas were cleared of their presence," the KDP statement said.

"The PKK sustained considerable casualties and fled to the mountains after their aborted attempt to take control of the area. Five KDP guerrillas and seven civilians were killed and around 40 civilians were injured," the statement added. "The PKK bear the entire responsibility of this aggression and its consequences," the statement said, adding it is also a clear-cut PKK intervention in the internal affairs of the Iraqi Kurds.

"This attack will not distract the KDP leadership from pursuing the ongoing peace process to end the year long internal PUK-KDP conflict and restore peace and stability in the region," the KDP statement concluded.

"The KDP will not accept the presence of the Kurdistan Workers' Party in the area under its control in northern Iraq," the group's representative in Ankara, Faik Nerwiya, told the French AFP agency on Sunday.

"We do not tolerate any threat to civilians and we will do our best to abolish the threat. Our duty is to keep our area safe," he said.

Nerwiya said the area was calm on Sunday and the KDP had stepped up its presence, especially round its bases. Nerwiya estimated that the PKK has up to 2,500 fighters in the KDP-controlled region. "The PKK brought forces from Iran and Syria to coordinate the attack" on Saturday, he said. Nerwiya charged that the PUK had coordinated with the Turkish Kurd rebels in

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Saturday's attack. "The PUK encourages the PKK," he said.

However, Latif Rashid, a PUK representative in London, strongly denied such coordination.

"Our position towards the PKK is clear: we support the right of the Kurdish people to obtain its rights (in Turkey) but we are against violence," he said.

"Our organization is a party for the Kurds of Iraq and our relations with Turkey are good," he added.

Meanwhile a group calling itself the "Iraqi Kurdish Patriotic Gathering in Turkey," in a statement entitled "News from Kurdistan" and faxed to the TURKISH DAILY NEWS over the weekend, said it was receiving "disturbing" news which could "undermine the agreement of August 11" in Drogheda, Ireland.

"According to reliable sources, (PUK leader Jalal) Talabani was dissatisfied with the outcome of the meeting and this was made clear by some PUK officials in Europe," the blatantly pro-KDP statement said.

It maintained that Saadi Pira, the PUK representative at the Drogheda talks, had later told the Kurdish MED-TV, broadcasting from London, that he "was not very optimistic about the agreement and he failed to commit his party to the last important point of the agreement which was concerning security issues with Turkey."

The statement went on to conjecture that Iran and Syria were both upset by the U.S.-sponsored talks in Drogheda between rival Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq.

It pointed out that Iranian disquiet was based on the fact that it was trying to reconcile the two warring Kurdish groups of northern Iraq, suggesting in this way that Tehran was annoyed at losing the initiative to its archrival, the United States. As for Syria's position on the issue, the Iraqi Kurdish Patriotic Gathering in Turkey statement said the following: "Turkey made sure its security interests were taken into account (at the Drogheda talks) and made part of the long term settlement in the region. This no doubt hinders PKK activities in the region and curbs their movements and weakens the Syrian hand in their own water dispute with Turkey."

It went on to claim that the PUK was "trying to agitate the situation" in order to release itself from the Drogheda agreement and thus "appease both Iran and Syria."

It further claimed that "several high-level meetings of Iranian, Syrian, PUK and PKK representatives had taken place after the talks in Ireland. [no closing quotation marks as published]

It also indicated that the PKK had regrouped its forces during to [as published] last week in order to carry out attacks against KDP bases. "Some of these forces were already based in the border area, other groups have returned from PUK controlled regions via Iran and large numbers are believed to have come from Syria and Turkey," the statement said.

Referring to the attacks against KDP positions on Saturday by the PKK, the statement said the following:

"If this fighting continues it will no doubt be of great joy for PUK which has been trying to open a second front against the KDP in this region through the PKK. Perhaps the KDP will have to withdraw a large number of Peshmergas (warriors) from fronts with the PUK around Irbil, Shaqlawah, and Rawandoz to combat the PKK in Bahdinan." It added that these developments could provide the PUK with an excuse not to implement the stipulations of the agreement reached in Drogheda.

"This dangerous game of Talabani and (PKK leader Abdullah) Ocalan, sponsored by Syria and Iran, will be a destabilizing factor in the region and it must be strongly condemned," the Iraqi Kurdish Patriotic Gathering in Turkey statement said.

Paper Urges Kurdish Factions To Change Attitude

JN3108185895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0915 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ calls on the warring Kurdish factions in the Iraqi Kurdistan region to reconsider their irresponsible attitude which, it says, only serves the aims of the imperialist-Zionist alliance to control the region, plunder its resources, and split Iraqi national unity.

In an article today, the paper says: It behooves these factions to benefit from the opportunity given them by the Iraqi leadership from the position of strength and responsibility, since this is the only option which fulfills the wish of the Iraqi people, both Arabs and Kurds, to safeguard their firm national unity and expresses total rejection of the aims and ambitions of the imperialist-Zionist alliance in the region.

AL-'IRAQ recalls the achievements and gains which the 17-30 July Revolution has made for our people in the Iraqi Kurdistan region and the comprehensive development, stability, and security which the region has enjoyed and says that all those achievements have been blown up, people's property and resources have been plundered, and their liberties have been confiscated at the hands of these factions with the blessing and encouragement of the foreigner.

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The paper explains: The anomalous conditions experienced by the Iraqi Kurdistan region, and the irresponsible acts which are being carried out by these factions, have enhanced national feelings among our Kurdish people and made them more committed to the unity of the homeland and more determined to defend the principles and general pan-Arab aims of the 17-30 July Revolution.

AL-'IRAQ concludes its article by advising the warring factions not to ignore Iraqi public opinion, which opposes and denounces their continued implementation of and further involvement in the plans of the Americans and the Zionists and the service of their interests in the region.

Saddam Meets Cuban Official, Medical Team Treating Watban

JN3108154395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has received Dr. Alvarez Campras, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Cuban-Iraqi Friendship Society, and his accompanying medical team, which will assist in the treatment of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan.

Further on Talks

JN3108190595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has received Dr. Alvarez Campras, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Cuban-Iraqi Friendship Society, and his accompanying medical team.

Campras conveyed to the leader president a message from President Fidel Castro containing the greetings of the Cuban president to President Saddam Husayn, as well as his hopes that Iraq will score victory over colonialism and its conspiratorial schemes.

Campras and his accompanying medical team said they were pleased with their meeting with President Saddam Husayn.

Campras arrived in Baghdad several days ago along with a four-man medical team to assist in the treatment of Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan.

Saddam Chairs RCC, Ba'th Party Command Meeting

JN3108153395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1528 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 31 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired a joint meeting for the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

Ministry Reports Rise in Congenital Malformations

JN3108111895 Baghdad INA in English 0830 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 31, INA—The latest statistic study made by the Iraqi Health Ministry showed an increase in congenital malformations among children in addition to an increase in mortality among them as well as among the matured owing to the acute shortage in food, medicine and everyday needs.

In a statement to INA, an official source of the ministry clarified that the pregnant malnutrition has negatively reflected on the embryo growth.

Children death came as a result of the lack of medicine, proteins and vitamins in food, the source said.

The five-year embargo has caused the prevention and delaying of medical supplies. The source added.

Saddam Orders Increase in Sugar Beet Price

JN2708164695 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered an increase in the price of sugar beet bought from farmers from 5,000 to 15,000 dinars per tonne. The measure was an expression of the president's support for farmers of this vital crop. His excellency also ordered further incentives related to the sugar percentage, according to the following table:

Sugar percentage	Price: dinars/tonne
10 percent	15,000
11 percent	16,500
12 percent	18,000
13 percent	19,500
14 percent	21,000
15 percent	22,500

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Savir: Interim Agreement 'Slowly Taking Shape'

TA0109100595 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[FBIS Translated Text] This week Israel and the Palestinians have made a considerable efforts to achieve the signing of the "interim agreement" in Washington by mid-September. Contrary to the situation after the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, a joint Israeli-Palestinian follow-up committee will start operating immediately after the signing of the "interim agreement." In this week's "Elat talks" Israel and the Palestinians have almost wrapped up the addendum dealing with mutual cooperation. This was said last night by Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir, head of the Israeli delegation in Elat, in a talk with DAVAR.

Savir said several complicated issues remain unsolved. Work groups will attempt to solve these issues next week in the Elat talks. The problems which will remain unsolved will be transferred over to the political level's decision. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet again in Taba in the middle of next week. This week the sides discussed, for the first time, cooperation between the parties following the signing of the "interim agreement" — including supervision over the mechanisms required for implementing the agreement. "There is still need for strenuous work, but the agreement is slowly taking shaping," Savir said.

A source in the Israeli delegation for the Elat talks yesterday noted that no progress was made on the Hebron issue this week, adding that the Israeli position will be consolidated upon Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' return from Italy on Sunday.

Ministers Voice 'Concern' Over Security in Oslo B

TA3108134195 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by correspondent On Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cabinet ministers have voiced concern about the Oslo B agreement's security arrangements, and they have asked Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to show them the agreement's addenda.

At a meeting held at Rabin's bureau yesterday, the ministers wished to know how the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] proposes to deal with terrorists who find refuge inside the autonomy after the IDF exits from city centers.

Ministers Liba'i and Qeysar were the most adamant in demanding that the prime minister show the cabinet all the addenda of the agreement. Rabin replied that he will show the agreements to any minister who asks for it.

Lieutenant General Amnon Shahaq, chief of staff, said: "The Palestinian Authority [PA] is responsible for everything going on inside the autonomy. We will expect them to carry out their responsibility with every means at their disposal."

Shulamit Aloni, the communications, science, and arts minister, sought an explanation on why a closure had been imposed on Jericho. Security elements replied that wanted men, who are responsible for many attacks, are hiding out in Jericho and Gaza.

The chief of staff said that the Jericho closure had a specific purpose. "We share the responsibility with the PA. We are responsible for the safety of Israelis. We will do everything necessary to guarantee the safety of Israelis, be it near or inside Jericho. The PA is responsible for Palestinians inside territories under its control. We will expect the PA to carry out its responsibility — not just to talk, but to act.

Shahaq denied reports alleging disagreements between him and the political echelons on the emerging arrangement in Hebron. He asserted: "We will continue discussing the Hebron issue. Discussing such issues through the media is a mistake."

Referring to the event in Jericho in which Border Police members abandoned a position, the chief of staff said: "It is grave. It should not have happened."

Rabin on 'Terror,' Need To Maintain IDF Strength

TA3108135495 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 31 Aug 95 p 4

[Report by correspondent On Levi and ITIM]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "We, the political echelons, are walking toward peace with all the uncertainties it entails, but with the belief and hope that the chances are greater than the risks and with the realization that we are economically strong and, primarily, militarily strong. The danger has diminished, but the threats have not left the Middle East." These remarks were made yesterday by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a speech at the ceremony marking the end of a course at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Staff and Command College. [passage omitted]

The prime minister went on to say that no Arab leader would ever have sat down at the negotiating table with Israel had the IDF not been powerful. He added: "Nor will an agreement have any meaning in the future without the backing of military might. Just as a check is covered by the banks, so is the peace agreement covered

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by the IDF's might. Therefore, there can be no graver mistake than to reach the conclusion that we no longer need to cultivate the IDF's might and first and foremost, its human backbone which ensures that the means at the army's disposal are used to the fullest extent possible," Rabin stressed.

Referring to Islamic terror, the prime minister said that "the current terror emanating from Lebanon and the territories poses the worst terror-related problem for the state since it was founded in terms of its nature, extremity, sophistication, and the madness of the suicide attackers." Rabin added that since the beginning of 1994, 118 Israeli civilians have been killed in terror attacks, 77 of them by suicide bombers.

Rabin: No Plan To Move Settlements 'at This Stage'

TA0109104795 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 1 Sep 95 p 10

[Report by Hayim Fikarsh]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has belatedly answered — while extending his apology — a letter sent him by more than 100 rabbis in which they stated their outright opposition to uprooting settlements in Eretz Yisra'el. In his answer, Rabin explained that in his opinion "the rabbis cannot rule that our departure from settlements in the framework of a political arrangement is more dangerous than preserving them without such an arrangement. This is a security and political issue, not a halakic one," Rabin stated.

In his letter, addressed to Rabbi Yosef Shmu'el Gerlitzky of Tel Aviv, Rabin said that at this stage there is no plan to uproot Jewish settlements. Rabin also wrote that while he has great respect for rabbis and Torah scholars, "there are Torah scholars who did not sign their names to this distinguished list of rabbis signing your letter, and there are Torah scholars who have expressed a position diametrically opposed to your position." [passage omitted]

One-Third of Settlers Said Will Leave if Paid

TA3108110895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thirty-two percent of settlers would be willing to leave their communities if offered "reasonable" compensation, while 26% would stay in the settlements under any conditions, according to a Modi'in Ezrahi survey commissioned by Peace Now.

The telephone survey, which studied settler attitudes toward their future, the peace process, and whether they would be willing to move, was conducted on August 17 among a representative sample of 419 Jews in the territories. The margin of error is 4.9%.

Asked "if you would be willing to leave the settlement with your family for reasonable compensation," 15% said they would "surely" be willing, and another 17% said they "think they would." By contrast, 59% said either they would surely not, or do not think they would be willing to leave for compensation. The rest were either undecided or refused to answer.

The poll found that willingness to leave is greater the further the settlements are from Jerusalem, in places such as Ari'el, 'Imanu'el, Alfey Menashe, and Qiryat Arba'.

Dr. Ela Heller, who carried out the survey, wrote that the settlers can be divided into 30% who are considered "soft," whose motivations for moving to the territories were not ideological and who would be willing to leave, and a hard core of 31% who are ideologically motivated and will not be willing to leave for compensation. Everyone else falls somewhere in between.

Asked what they would do "if your settlement will not be included in the state's boundaries in the final agreement with the Palestinians," 26% said they would stay in the settlements under any conditions, 29% said they will remain if the security remains in the hands of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], 25% would prefer moving within the Green Line, 8% would move to another settlement in the territories, less than 1% said they would leave the country, and the rest were undecided.

Among the poll's other findings:

Forty-seven percent of the settlers said they live in the territories for economic or quality of life reasons, 36% for religious or nationalistic reasons, and 15% for a combination of reasons. The rest either did not know how to define their motivations, were undecided, or refused to answer.

A majority of the settlers, some 75%, believe that in five years they will be living in the same settlement they live in now, while 11% think they will be living inside the Green Line, 5% in another settlement, and less than 1% abroad. The rest did not know.

Thirty-two percent of the respondents believe their settlement will be annexed to Israel, while 7% believe it will be evacuated, and they will receive compensation, as was done with Yamit. The majority, 44%, believe that their settlement will not be evacuated and that their security will remain in the hands of the IDF.

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Twenty-five percent of the settlers defined themselves "in general" as "supporting the peace process between Israel and the Arabs," compared with a national figure of 57%. Opposed to the process are 58%, as compared to a 28% nationwide figure.

Attorney General's Panel Recommends Ban on Torture

TA0109054795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A panel headed by Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir has recommended a legal ban on torture, making it punishable by up to 20 years in prison. The recommendations of the committee were submitted to Justice Minister David Liba'i. The proposals would enable the General Security Service to continue using harsh interrogation methods in its fight against terrorism, but within the framework of the law. Ben-Ya'ir recommended raising the penalty against using force in interrogations from three years in prison to 5 to 20 years in the case of torture. He defined torture according to an international charter in 1986 as severe pain or suffering whether physical or psychological.

Betzelem Rejects PSS Denial of Torture

TA0109054695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Israeli human rights organization Betzelem has rejected the denial by the Preventive Security Services [PSS] in Jericho that it had abducted and tortured Palestinians in the West Bank. Betzelem said in a statement that it reaffirms the findings contained in its report last week based on testimonies which indicate an explicit trend of human rights violations by the service. It said that instead of seriously examining its harsh findings, the head of the PSS, Jibril al-Rujub, sought at a news conference yesterday to undermine the report's authenticity.

'Sources' Say PA Not Doing Enough Against 'Terror'

TA0109103195 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 1 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "The PLO security service's announcement earlier this week that it managed to foil a suicide attack in Jerusalem after carrying out a wave of detentions in Gaza is a total fabrication, something of which all the Israeli elements are perfectly cognizant." This was said to HATZOFE by an Israeli security source.

As will be recalled, last Tuesday the Palestinian security service announced that it foiled an attack planned for Jerusalem after carrying out a wave of detentions among extremist elements in the Gaza Strip. According to a source in the Palestinian security service, several of the detainees trained a 22 year-old youth, who resides in Gaza and whose identity has not been revealed, to carry out a suicide attack at Jerusalem's central bus station. [passage omitted]

Israeli security sources say that, based on reliable information which has reached security elements, the detentions were all conducted against the background of internal struggles between Gaza Strip Arabs and had absolutely nothing to do with planned attacks in Israel. They say the Palestinian Authority [PA] is under pressure from the senior Israeli political echelon to show more firmness in their struggle against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in order to convince the Israeli public of the importance of the political process, thus encouraging them to support the expansion of PLO control over Judaea and Samaria. The security sources say this is why the PA has recently aired occasional reports about the prevention of attacks in the Gaza Strip, reports which are baseless and which cannot be verified by anybody except the Israeli security services. A security source charges that a directive for such an examination has not been given at the political level for political reasons — namely in order not to call the Palestinian "bluff" and to preserve the facade of a "PLO struggle against Hamas."

A HATZOFE correspondent notes that senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers in the Gaza Strip privately criticize the Palestinian Police for not doing everything they can to foil Hamas attacks. The sources claim that several recent incidents of roadside bombs in the Gaza Strip indicate that "professionals" were involved. The PA has recently established a sapper unit, but IDF sources doubt its professional level, and the detonation of roadside bombs are left for Israel Police bomb disposal experts. Military sources in the Gaza Strip say that because of the ease in planting and setting off bombs, the struggle against Hamas should be done on the preventive level, prior to the preparatory stage. The Palestinian Police are expected to prevent these attacks at the preparatory stage, and it is commonly believed that the PA is not doing everything possible to fight terror squads.

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Commentary Explains Calling Rabin 'Murderer'

TA0109054595 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 31 Aug 95

["Parsha Commentary" by Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana: "Who Is Really To Blame;" translated by Lenny Goldberg]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A callous routine is put into motion after each fatal Arab terrorist attack against Jews in Israel. Everyone seems to have the routine down pat — The "Hevra Qadisha" [Israel Burial Society], the psychologists, the hospitals, the police who violently disperse the spontaneous protests and angry crowds, and of course the media who swoop upon the victims to get the juicy pictures and details.

RABIN THE MURDERER

Then there are the people. Large and angry crowds of people arrive at the site of the explosion and spontaneously spill out their rage on the politicians. One of the more common chants of late is "Rabin the Murderer". The level headed politicians are quick to condemn both the terror as well as the chants of Rabin the Murderer as they display their evenhandedness. After all, Rabin the Murderer is no way for nice Jewish boys and girls to talk.

Did the politicians ever stop to think why so many people call them such names? Why don't the masses turn their fury against the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] who sends the suicide bombers? As with everything else, the Torah gives us the answer to this question. Appearing at the end of this week's parsha, is the fascinating subject of the heifer whose neck is broken ("'egla 'arufa"). If one finds a corpse in a field, the elders of the nearest city are gathered together and a ceremony takes place in which they must declare that: "Our hands have not shed this blood". The sages ask the obvious question, would we have suspected the elders of murdering that person who was found? However, they say by implication: "we have not seen him nor allowed him to depart without food and without an escort".

THE SIMPLE MESSAGE:

Many people read these words yet have difficulty grasping what is written here. What would be if the elders did not fulfill their duty and sent the Jew without any food or escort? Would it enter one's mind to call the elders of the court murderers for not supplying the traveler with food and escort? Judaism holds the elders, as righteous as they may be, accountable for the death of this stranger. They have blood on their hands because something perhaps could have been done to prevent the death.

What can one say about the current Israeli regime in Israel and the past regimes (right and left) who for years deliberately tolerated and encouraged the existence of a vicious enemy in our midst? Can such a government honestly say, "our hands have not spilled this blood"? They have spilled and spilled! Apparently, the crowds who gather after each bombing instinctively pick up on it, shouting "Rabin is a murderer" and "Shahal is a murderer". They intuitively grasp the simple message of the "'egla 'arufa", and know that it is not only the Hamas who is to blame. All of those who called us Nazis and racists for demanding that the enemies of Israel be expelled from Israel are partners with the Hamas. They have the blood of every Jewish victim who was killed on their hands.

Jordanian Envoy on Peace Process, Iraqi Situation

TA3108154195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Aug 95

[Report on interview with Jordanian Ambassador Marwan al-Mu'ashshir by correspondent Gay Ben-Yovich on 31 August; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, Jordan's ambassador in Israel, said today that the peace process has reached a point of no return. No party will be interested in halting it, he said. He is referring to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's remarks that it is preferable for peace to precede the Likud's return to power. In an interview with IDF Radio, al-Mu'ashshir also referred to the Iraqi issue, saying that Jordan is prepared to give the defecting generals shelter for as long as is needed.

He said there are no Israeli-Jordanian contacts on the Iraqi rebels. He also said Jordan is not actively operating to bring down Saddam Husayn's regime. King Husayn's speech on the issue first disclosed publicly what he had told Saddam privately.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording, in English] The king has since the Gulf crisis really and even before that time gave advice to the Iraqi leadership as to the need to open up politically, democratically. We have had a lot of Iraqi dignitaries come to Jordan, and we have made this message very clear. This message has not been really heeded by the Iraqis, and we feel that the Iraqi population really has suffered too long because of these actions, and we are worried about that. [end recording]

Ambassador al-Mu'ashshir reacts for the first time to Egyptian President Mubarak's remarks that he hopes the peace will come before the Likud is elected. I hope that all Israeli Governments will cooperate with all the

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sides in the region, but the processes are irreversible, the ambassador said.

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording, in English] The peace process to a large extent has become irreversible, and there are facts that have been created on the ground that where I do not think that any political party really would be interested in going back to the status quo and in prolonging the state of conflict in the region.

Jerusalem is part of these occupied territories and as such should go back to Palestinian sovereignty. The danger is that when one side imposes his will on the others, particularly with regard to a question as explosive as Jerusalem, the danger is that we will come up with an agreement that is lacking and will not bring durable peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

Poll: 41% Do Not Want Washington Ceremony

TA0109102495 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Sep 95 p 1

[Poll by the Dahaf Institute headed by Dr. Mina Tzemah]

[FBIS Translated Text] Should the Oslo B accord be signed in a festive ceremony in Washington or at a more modest event in our region?

To sign in Washington, 14 percent; To Sign in our region, 41 percent; Not to sign at all, 43 percent; No response, 2 percent.

Should legal restrictions be imposed on the Shin Bet in interrogating Arab terrorists?

Yes, 37 percent; No, 62 percent; No response, 1 percent.

Should legal measures be taken against the extremist right-wing Zo Artzenu movement which is suspected of inciting to rebellion?

Yes, 58 percent; No, 40 percent; No response, 2 percent.

The poll, taken on 29 and 30 August, encompassed 503 people, who constitute a representative sample of the adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

'Grave Concern' Over U.S. Jewry Support for Right

TA3108140495 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 31 Aug 95 pp 1, 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the past several days, Israeli elements have been growing increasingly concerned by the shift to the right of the U.S. Jewry. Reports that money from mainly American elements have been flowing to right-wing organizations in Israel and to the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have caused grave concern among Israeli decisionmakers. Material accumulated recently in several government offices only attests to the extent of the shift.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, last week sent a cable to Israel in which he elaborates on a wave of reports in the U.S. media about alleged violations of human rights, obstructions of the freedom of speech, hostility toward religion, and police brutality in Israel. "This time," Rabinovich notes, "there is a clear attempt to question the legitimacy of the current Israeli Government and democracy." The ambassador believes that yet another element is involved here: an attempt by right-wing Americans to garner support for their struggle among liberal circles by using phrases and terminology from America's political jargon.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday estimated that Rabinovich's recent cable expresses criticism of the ineffectiveness of Israel's public relations campaigns. Jerusalem has been claiming for quite some time that the political process can be explained abroad much better than it is being done today. Rabinovich is offering a solution: According to him, the line that needs to be taken should refute the arguments the right wing is presenting in favor of civil disobedience. "The organized nature of this campaign needs to be addressed with systematic arguments," he wrote. [passage omitted]

U.S. Involvement in Peace Process Criticized

TA3108145295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by Meron Benvenisti: "At Lawn Level"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Along the windy path of the peace process, warning signs in the persons of Ross and Indyk of the American "peace team," have been put up. Ever since the eve of the Madrid conference they have cropped up at every juncture of the process, allotting patronizing grades ("we have the impression that the sides are making an effort to advance the negotiations") and offering their good services "to help the sides bridge the gaps between them."

When they insist on "a vital target date" and add a heaped measure of refreshing American optimism ("it is possible to complete the negotiations in another two weeks") you know that the process is abandoning reality and is going to be lost in the fog of sophisticated formulas.

The negotiators on the Israeli side do not regard the intervention by the American peacemakers as a warning sign: On the contrary, they would also like to be rescued from being bogged down in reality, to complete now the

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establishment of the paper structure called Oslo B, and to attend the cocktail party on the lawn. The sweaty and frustrating implementation they leave to others, and they are not bothered by the question of how hundreds of thousands of simple people will live within the dense net, which is described in 260 pages of text.

The Palestinians do not regard the American peace team as a warning sign either. On the contrary, they view it as a life line. They have already exhausted their verbal acrobatics in their efforts to uphold the remains of their honor. After yielding on the water issue and accepting wording that states that they have "rights," but that these will be discussed during the "permanent settlement" stage — while in the meantime, they will continue to go thirsty — they hope for a "formula" that will hide their surrender on electricity and land issues. Dennis Ross might provide it, or they might at least have the benefit of somebody's ear so that they can whisper their grievances, and the old dream might just be fulfilled and the Americans will pressure Israel.

The American peace team's perseverance is worthy of admiration. The humiliating experiences they suffered in recent years — 12 rounds of barren bilateral negotiations in Washington, the drafting of the Oslo accord behind their backs, and the Syrian fiasco — would have deterred normal humans. But they, filled with the passion of a mission, will not permit reality to do them in. They are the only oasis in the wilderness of U.S. foreign policy, and there is nothing to match a signing ceremony in Washington to put color into the cheeks of their President, and damn Jericho, Gaza, and the Rene Cassin junction.

But the facts will not be coerced. Two events that have transpired over the last week showed the great gap between a facade of diplomatic negotiations between equal sides and a reality in which the strong partner uses his force without even noticing that his action is making the entire negotiations seem ridiculous. The closure on Jericho and the closure orders handed to Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem were reactions to the murderous attack in Jerusalem. Various excuses were used to explain the closure, all of them related in one way or another to the manhunt after those involved in the last terror act.

The connection between the closure on Jericho and the Oslo B negotiations did not bother the decisionmakers or did not enter their minds. What is the connection between a security decision and the negotiations in Elat? The Palestinians, however, are cognizant of this connection. The entire structure of the redeployment and the evacuation of West Bank cities is based on an agreement regarding unhindered links among the Palestinian Authority [PA] enclaves in the West Bank. If Israel can unilaterally impose a closure on Jericho, in the future it may impose such a closure on Nabulus, Janin, Ramallah, and Tulkarm if it decides that one or all of them have become cities of refuges for terrorists.

Reasoning based on security considerations is just as solid as that based on political considerations — which has led to the decision to evacuate the West Bank cities. But what does one do when the two types of reasoning collide? Even Dennis Ross cannot bridge these differences with one of his papers. If it is only the Israeli reasoning that is operative, what is the point in the dozens of clauses in the agreement purportedly aimed at creating a symmetrical situation between two equal sides, all going under the title of a peace process?

The Israeli side's brute force is reflected even more blatantly in the issue of the closure of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem. Ostensibly there is no connection between the Jerusalem attack and the closure order given to the three institutions, but the timing points to such a link. The orders are based on a law that pretends to be concerned with the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement, but which is in fact concerned with solidifying Israeli control in East Jerusalem and restricting the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles [DOP] to the autonomy areas.

This is not a historic agreement of mutual recognition between nations, rather an agreement between authorities, and as such the PA is not permitted to act among Palestinians who are not under its authority, because this is tantamount to a foreign country intervening in Israel's domestic affairs. East Jerusalem's Palestinian residents are not allowed to cultivate their communal and national interests because these have already found their expression in Gaza and Jericho.

The unilateral action taken in Jerusalem is ostensibly unrelated to the Oslo B negotiations. One can assume that the police minister's advisers explained to him that there is tension between the Jerusalem group and the Gaza-based PA, and that consequently the closure is unlikely to affect the negotiations — and apparently they are right. The negotiations will continue and may even reach a successful conclusion with the active help of the American peacemakers. 'Arafat will then arrive humiliated at the lawn and sign an agreement allowing Israel to implement any unilateral step it decides to adopt "for security reasons."

What can one do? This agreement will undoubtedly reflect the balance of forces between the sides, but who needs the Americans?

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Official To Protest U.S. Embassy Travel Advisory

TA0109102595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said he will protest to the U.S. Embassy in Israel over its advice to American tourists not to use public transportation in Israel because of the Jerusalem terrorist attack.

He said the travel advisory issued by the embassy created panic among tourists. Dayan made the remarks to our correspondent Yo'av Aviv during a tour of Tel Aviv's new central bus station.

Man Held for Planning To Attack Arabs

TA3108163295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police have arrested a Jerusalem resident after he told an undercover officer that he planned to attack Arabs. The suspect, 25-year-old Gil Tahari, was detained 10 days ago. He had stolen weapons in his possession. He will be brought before the Jerusalem District Court tomorrow for a remand hearing.

And another stabbing attempt in Jerusalem's Old City — a 15-year-old Palestinian woman from Abu-Dis was overpowered by border police after she tried to stab a female soldier at the Western Wall this morning. The soldier was unharmed. The Palestinian was involved in a similar stabbing attempt 18 months ago.

Editorial: Serbs Left UN, NATO No Choice

TA3108123095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Aug 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Turning Point in Bosnia"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bosnian Serbs cannot say they weren't warned. In fact United Nations and NATO warnings have been issued so often, it is perhaps understandable the Serbs learned to ignore them and to continue their assaults on UN safe areas with impunity. They will do so no longer, now the worm that has been eating international willpower has finally turned.

For better or worse, a major crossroads has at last been reached in the Balkan war, with the devastating pounding NATO air forces yesterday unleashed on Serb military targets. The Serbian massacre of 37 civilians in Sarajevo the previous day finally crossed the last trip-wire holding back international exasperation. The shelling of the Sarajevo marketplace was a particularly ugly act of bad faith, given that it came bang in the middle of a new US peace initiative.

The Serbs missed several obvious points in their miscalculations. In the first place, the new peace proposals are American, not European, and the warring parties in Bosnia should have been well aware that trying Washington's patience is an altogether different game from thumbing noses at the European Union. The Clinton administration was all the more sensitive to its peace initiative after its top three negotiators were killed in an accident — it would have been politically suicidal for any US president to allow the perception that his representatives died in vain.

The Serbs also missed the very significant handover of power last month from the UN Secretary General to his field commanders in the matter of ordering air strikes. The new, shorter, chain of command is exactly the way NATO is supposed to work and the result was obvious yesterday in the biggest military operation of the organization's history. Unlike previous air strikes — mere pinpricks tentatively authorized by the overly cautious Butrus Butrus-Ghali — NATO at last wiped out two years of humiliation in the hands of bumbling bureaucrats. It was extremely foolish of the Serbs not to realize that their capture of the Srebrenica safe area on July 11 — and the subsequent outrageous massacre of hundreds of prisoners of war — left the United Nations and NATO with one simple choice in response to the next atrocity — fight back or get out.

The Serbs chose to kill Sarajevan civilians, and NATO at last pushed the United Nations over the line from peace keeping to peace enforcing. It was also clear yesterday that official United Nations and European dithering over decisions that might offend Russia was just another futile excuse for doing nothing. The Russians as expected condemned the air strikes, as well as the Serb shelling that provoked them, but it was clear that behind the diplomatic language there was a great deal of acceptance in Moscow of the NATO action. This again is convincing proof that decisive action can be admired even by parties disagreeing with it, whereas bumbling compromise and weakness wins no wars nor peace nor respect.

Bluster was to be expected as an initial Bosnian Serb reaction. The real test of the success of the operation will come if Belgrade's Serb leadership finally pulls the rug from under its Bosnian allies and admits that the "greater Serbia" dream is finally over. No one, even among the Serbs' foreign allies in Russia or Greece, has suggested that yesterday's bombing was an act of vengeance or wanton destruction. The Western objectives are clear and simple — a restoration of respect for international law and a final push for effective peace negotiations.

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What will happen now remains an open question. At the crossroads, there are two routes. The Serbs may be bombed to the negotiating table, or they may opt for all-out war with the United Nations. The latter would be an extremely foolish choice and it must be hoped that renewed Serb shelling of Sarajevo yesterday was no more than a knee-jerk reaction of bravado. Even Bosnian Serb generals must know now that NATO roused and American-backed is a different beast from a retreating United Nations.

There are other dangers for the peace enforcers. The Bosnian Moslems and Croats must not be allowed to run off with the impression that they have enrolled international forces on their side, nor must they be allowed to take military advantage of the destruction of Serb armaments. NATO's role must be clearly spelled out as peace enforcing, not war mongering. There is still no question of foreign ground troops being committed to the conflict and the lightly armed UN forces are still more likely to pull out than to beef up their presence.

It is now time for all involved in this wretched war — which has outlasted post-communist conflicts in Azerbaijan, Chechnya, Georgia, and Moldavia — to realize that the game has played itself out. For Serbs, the time has come to cut a deal. Serbs have Serbia, Croats have Croatia, Slovenians have Slovenia, Macedonians have Macedonia and all that remains is for those who feel Bosnian — whatever their other ethnic stripes — to be allowed to carve out a home and future for themselves.

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'Sources' Say Egypt To Protest 'Interference'

JN3108141195 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 31 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned from diplomatic sources in Amman that the Egyptian Government is preparing a memorandum of protest to be submitted to the Jordanian Government and to the Arab League against what it described as interference in its internal affairs.

The sources said that the memorandum will include a number of documents indicating that Jordan has offended Egypt's leadership, government, and people. The memorandum comes in the wake of a series of media campaigns between the two sides after the failure of the Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Jordan, during which he insisted that Egypt should be a main speaker at the inauguration of the economic summit in Amman, but Jordan turned down this request.

The Jordanian and the Egyptian sides also differed on the issue of Palestinian-Egyptian and Palestinian-Jordanian relations, and on Egypt's attempt to sponsor the Palestinians at the expense of their historical relations with Jordan. Jordan and Egypt also differed on the subject of Arab-Israeli relations and Egypt's support for the Syrian position, which does not believe in the importance of expediting talks with Israel or normalizing the Arab-Israeli relations.

The two sides also differed in their position toward Iraq. Egypt insisted on an immediate lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq and urged a unified Arab stand in order to end the embargo without giving any pretext to prolong it.

Foreign Minister Welcomes NATO Air Strikes

JN3108145695 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti met separately in his office today with the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, and China and the Bosnian charge d'affaires.

Answering journalists' questions after his meeting with the ambassadors, al-Kabariti said Jordan is satisfied with, and welcomes the deterrent and effective military measures carried out by the NATO and UN forces against the strategic positions of the Serb forces, which are committing savage acts against the innocent civilians in Sarajevo and other areas in Bosnia.

The foreign minister said he hopes such decisive measures will deter the aggressors and force them to reconsider their positions, conduct, and violation of international law and the individual's right to live in peace and security.

Paper Views Government Stance

JN0109081495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 1 Sep 95 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Jordanian Move on Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Jordanian Government expressed hope that NATO strikes against Serb positions over the past two days will be a practical and serious step to persuade Serb troops into halting their brutal actions targeted against innocent civilians in Sarajevo and elsewhere in Bosnia.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti's meeting yesterday with the ambassadors of Britain, Russia, and China and the charge d'affaires of the Bosnian Embassy in Amman is a reiteration of Jordan's unwavering and principled stand on Serb hostilities against the Muslim people of Bosnia. The meeting also represents a sincere call for putting an end to this tragic situation in Bosnia and bringing about a peaceful solution to this serious crisis.

NATO's bombardment of Serb positions will persuade Serb leaders of the need to change their positions toward the proposed peace initiatives, including the U.S. initiative, which aim to divide Bosnia and draw a new map that would end this crisis which is unspeakably ugly.

There is no doubt that Jordan welcomes any peace plan that is accepted by the two parties, particularly the Bosnian Government. This behooves peace-loving countries to apply strong pressure on the Serb Government so it will accept peaceful solutions and terminate this devastating war whose woes are still threatening all Balkan countries.

In fact, the identical Jordanian and Bosnian viewpoints expressed during al-Kabariti's meeting with the Bosnian charge d'affaires yesterday underscore the positive and steady Jordanian position which seeks to support the Republic of Bosnia through all means possible so that it can exercise its legitimate right to self-defense.

Serious and great developments are expected to take place with respect to the situation in Bosnia if the UN fails to work out a speedy peaceful solution, especially since U.S. President Clinton is strenuously seeking to hammer out an agreement on Bosnia as soon possible to end the human suffering there.

We are hopeful that international efforts will succeed in forcing the Serbs to agree to peaceful solutions and international demands for a settlement that would ensure

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the restoration of stability, security, and tranquility for all the peoples of the region and safeguard all the rights of the Muslim Bosnian people.

King Returns From Oman, Comments on Talks

JN3108191695 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur returned to the homeland this evening after a three-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, his majesty met with his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus of Oman. The talks, which were held in Salalah, comprehensively reviewed the situation in the region and recent developments. His Majesty King Husayn made statements to our correspondent Kassab Samawi:

[Begin recording] [Samawi] Sir, how do you assess the outcome of your talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus in light of developments in the Arab scene?

[Husayn] The visit was to a brother and to brothers who are dear to all of us. It was a visit to a brother I appreciate and respect. Our relations are historical. Praise be to God, our relations are those of brotherhood, true friendship, and mutual trust. Praise be to God, this was a visit in which we were the center of attention and care by his majesty my brother and by our brothers and kinsfolk in our second fraternal home.

We had the opportunity to talk about everything frankly and clearly. Praise be to God, in all cases our viewpoints were close. We do not think that there is any disagreement on any issue. On the contrary, the march is one and is aimed at serving the interest of this nation.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your majesty the king, how can the truly distinguished relationship between the two leaderships be invested in closing Arab ranks?

[Husayn] I believe that things are going in the right direction. I am very optimistic about establishing the homeland we aspire for in terms of inter-Arab relations, cooperation, integration, and action to serve the joint interest of all.

[Samawi] Your majesty the king, in light of your visit to the Sultanate of Oman and your other Arab contacts, how prepared are the Arabs to participate in the Amman economic summit?

[Husayn] We received our brothers' acceptance before I paid this visit. I believe that this is a special year because it marks the silver jubilee anniversary for the brothers and his majesty the sultan there. His majesty the sultan may not be able to attend the summit personally. However, there will be full Omani representation at the summit, God willing.

[Samawi] Regarding developments in Jordanian-Saudi relations, has a date been set for a summit meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques?

[Husayn] I look forward to a meeting soon, God willing. A date has not been set as yet, but I believe that the meeting will be held in the near future, God willing. [end recording]

Television Reports on Oman Talks

JN3108201795 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, held a meeting at al-Hisn Palace in Salalah today. The meeting was followed by an expanded meeting attended by senior officials from both sides. During the meeting, the Jordanian and Omani sides completed talks which were held yesterday. They voiced their support for the peace process in the region on all tracks until a comprehensive, just, and durable peace is achieved in the region so that its peoples would achieve comprehensive development by mobilizing all potentials and efforts to reinforce the region's stability and security. Moreover, the two sides discussed the situation and recent developments in the Arab arena and stressed the need to activate joint Arab action and to achieve Arab solidarity on clear and firm bases. The two sides iterated the need to reinforce bilateral relations and to expand the prospects of these relations in various fields in order to serve the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Prince Hasan Reportedly Receives Hamas Delegation

TA3108120595 Gaza AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, Amman — AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH has learned that Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan received a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation a few days ago. Various issues were discussed at this meeting, most important of which was the Hamas stance on participation in the Palestinian elections.

The details of the discussions have not been divulged, but informed sources said that it was an extremely important meeting in light of current developments and because it took place shortly after Jordan expelled some Hamas leaders from Amman.

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Some diplomats here link this meeting with the contradiction in the official Jordanian and Palestinian positions on Iraq.

Negotiator Comments on Transport Talks With Israel

JN3108200895 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 31 Aug 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Experts from Jordan and Israel met in Amman today to finalize details of a transport agreement between the two sides. The meeting at the Royal Scientific Society tackled various aspects of the proposed accord, which encompasses land, sea, and air transport.

The Jordanian team to the Transport Committee meeting was headed by Durayd Mahasinah, who is the director general of the Ports Corporation. He said afterwards that the meeting was the final stage before the signing of the accord. Mahasinah said that the accord emphasizes Jordan's pivotal regional role in the transport sector. He added that al-'Aqabah Airport would play a major role in the service of comprehensive development projects in the region.

The head of the Israeli side, (Yutni Schneller), expressed hope that the accord would be signed soon. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti Receives Message From UK Counterpart

JN3108164495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan has welcomed NATO's strikes against Serb positions in Bosnia. Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti voiced the hope that decisive measures would make the Serbs reconsider their barbaric acts in Sarajevo and other Bosnian safe havens. This came during separate meetings here in Amman between Mr. al-Kabariti and the ambassadors of Britain, Russia, and China.

The foreign minister said the NATO strikes should urge serious negotiations to end Serb attacks and enable Bosnia-Herzegovina, like other parties in former Yugoslavia, to lead a secure and sovereign future. On news reports of Russia's objections to the strikes, Mr. al-Kabariti called on the Russian Government to reconsider its view and not to award the Serb aggression.

Minister al-Kabariti received a message from his British counterpart delivered by the British ambassador to Jordan, which contained the latest developments in Bosnia and the justifications for the military action. He also received a message from the Chinese Government on the situation in Bosnia as well as China's support for the upcoming Amman economic summit.

The foreign minister also received the charge d'affaires at the Bosnia-Herzegovina Embassy, who conveyed his country's stance vis-a-vis the latest developments there. The two sides' views were identical on the importance of NATO measures against the aggressor as a means to bolster a political solution for the choice of peace.

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Blast at PFLP-GC Base Follows IAF Bombings

TA0109051795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An explosion occurred at a training base belonging to Ahmad Jibril's organization [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC] in Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley killing some of the organization's top commanders and wounding Jibril's son. Our correspondent in the north Dan Ro'e reports:

[Begin Ro'e recording] There is a lot still unknown about the event, but one thing can be said: Serious damage was caused to the organization and its head. Ahmad Jibril's son Jihad Jibril was seriously wounded in the stomach. The organization's central sector commander and one of its leaders was seriously wounded and later died of his wounds. Our correspondent Mikha'el Gurdus reports that according to news agencies, another 10 members of the organization were killed, and 17 were wounded.

The blast occurred Wednesday [30 August] night when the group was handling explosives at a base in Kusiyah in the al-Biqa'. The rest is guesswork. What were the explosives meant for and against whom were they to be used.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is mum, but in the background are a number of Israel Air Force [IAF] bombings over recent days against Jibril targets in the al-Biqa' which caused many fatalities. Jibril's organization often cooperates with Hizballah. It is considered a sophisticated organization and enjoys a Syrian umbrella. Its members shell IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions from time to time and often use Sagger missiles. The only thing that can be said for sure is that the accident prevented some sort of attack and that the organization sustained a heavy blow.

According to reports from Lebanon, Jibril's son was moved to hospital in Syria.

AFP Reports Jibril's Son Killed

NC3108162295 Paris AFP in English 1612 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shtawrah, Lebanon, Aug 31 (AFP) — Five people including the son of radical Palestinian [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, PFLP-GC] leader Ahmad Jibril were killed and 12 wounded when an explosive went off accidentally during a training exercise here Thursday [31 August], security services said.

Later Report Says Jibril's Son Wounded

NC3108174095 Paris AFP in English 1647 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shtawrah, Lebanon, Aug 31 (AFP) — Five guerrillas were killed and 12 wounded including the son of radical Palestinian leader Ahmad Jibril in an explosion during a training exercise Thursday [31 August], security services said.

Jihad Jibril, 40, whose father heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), was among the wounded, they said.

Palestinian sources said the "accidental" blast happened in the countryside close to the village of Kusiyah, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of Beirut, in the al-Biq'a valley. The wounded were taken to hospitals in the area, the sources said.

The PFLP-GC is based in Damascus and is fiercely opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. It has been accused by Western intelligence services of being involved in terrorism. U.S. President Bill Clinton decided in January to freeze the group's assets in the United States. In the past two years the group has tightened its links to fundamentalists and drawn closer to Iran, according to Palestinian sources. Its bases in Lebanon are periodically targetted by Israeli planes, and three of its members have been killed in Israeli air raids since the start of the year.

PFLP-GC Denies Losses

NC0109105995 Paris AFP in English 1000 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Sept 1 (AFP) — A radical Palestinian group on Friday [1 September] denied reports that five of its guerrillas were killed in a blast during a training exercise, saying only one fighter died and four were hurt.

But security services insisted that five guerrillas of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) of Ahmad Jibril were killed and 12 wounded in the explosion on Wednesday. The wounded include Jibril's 40-year-old son Jihad.

Other reports said the blast was an act of sabotage against the Damascus-based PFLP-GC which is fiercely opposed to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The PFLP-GC said it occurred during maneuvers in which live ammunition was used in the Syrian-controlled eastern al-Biqa' Valley. A 25-year-old officer, 'Abdallah Khalaf, was killed and Jihad Jibril "moderately" hurt.

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Ex-U.S. Officials Welcomed by Hizballah Officials

NC3108200995 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Aug 31 (AFP) — A U.S. Congressman here Thursday [31 August] criticised a State Department travel ban on Lebanon and said he would visit the Ba'labakk region where American hostages were held during the civil war.

Jim Colby and a former U.S. ambassador to Lebanon, John Kelly, told reporters in Beirut they would travel on Friday to Ba'labakk, stronghold of the Iranian-backed Hizballah in the Syrian-controlled eastern al-Biqa' Valley. A senior Hizballah official said they were welcome in Ba'labakk, the site of Roman temples.

"Ba'labakk is open to everyone except Israelis and their collaborators. So 'Ahlan wa sahlan' (welcome)," said Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik, who also represents Iran's spiritual leader 'Ali Khamene'i in the al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon.

Colby and Kelly are visiting Lebanon at the invitation of Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri. They met President Ilyas al-Hirawi and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and were expected to visit the Ba'labakk home of 'Abbas Hijazi, whose brother Hasan Hijazi is one of Colby's assistants in the United States.

Last week U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher renewed a travel ban on Lebanon for six months on the grounds of a insecurity in Lebanon. The ban was adopted after an American TWA jetliner was hijacked to Beirut by Shiite Moslem fundamentalists and a U.S. Navy diver killed in 1985, and amid a spate of kidnappings and killings of foreigners in Lebanon. Colby argued that security had "very much improved" since the end of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war.

Keeping the ban is damaging U.S. economic interests in Lebanon where a huge post-war reconstruction drive is under way, he said, echoing a statement last week from another visiting Congressman, Martin Hoke. Kelly, who ended his term in Beirut in 1991, admitted there were some security problems but said the situation had "vastly improved" since he was last in the country.

Birri Cites Differences Among Leaders on Media

NC3108195695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Amal Movement held a rally in al-Nabatiyah today on the 17th anniversary of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr. [passage omitted]

Addressing the rally, Speaker Nabih Birri said there are serious conflicts between the Constitution of the Second Republic and the economic plan currently being pursued. He noted that all the problems of the Second Republic and the differences among the three leaders [president, prime minister, and speaker] are due to this conflict, which must be corrected immediately.

Speaker Birri said what happened at the Cabinet meeting yesterday was an attempt to circumvent the Chamber of Deputies. He asked how can licenses be given for television stations to transmit by satellite at a time when they do not have licenses to transmit terrestrially? He noted that if their intention is to return to a monopoly of the media, this will not be approved as long as Nabih Birri is speaker of the Chamber of Deputies. He said: I will not give up freedom for the media.

Speaker Birri assured that the Chamber of Deputies is prepared to permit satellite transmissions if a bill is sent to the Chamber with the recommendations of a specialized technical committee.

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'Secret Talks' Exist Only in 'Israeli Mind'

JN0109064495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH today comments on the importance of Europe's role in the Middle East peace process. The newspaper says Europe must be addressed as one bloc that is seeking economic unity. This bloc has an influential status on the international scene.

AL-BA'TH underscores the importance of mutual interests between Europe and the region, especially in the economic field, to which the Europeans attach great importance. However, the political role should take precedence over the economic role, the paper says.

AL-BA'TH adds: When this vital region enjoys stability, then there will be a suitable climate for economic prosperity. For this to happen, a political settlement to the Middle East problem must be reached. This requires playing an active role, even if this involves pressure on Israel to make it respond to international legitimacy. Europe's role must not be taken lightly. Syria realizes the importance of this role. Therefore, it has been urging the Europeans to play an active role in the peace process.

The paper concludes: Europe's understanding of the course of the peace process and the need for it to achieve its objective first; Europe's understanding of Syria's position, which adheres to international legitimacy and which enjoys the appreciation and respect of the Europeans; and Europe's understanding of Israel's intransigence and the obstacles raised by the Rabin government, can indeed be translated on the ground. There is a good opportunity now for this.

Under the headline "The Constant and the Changing," AL-THAWRAH says in of its commentaries today: A quick review of the developments of the peace process shows that Israel does not want peace. Israel seeks partial deals and separate solutions. It is also launching distortion and smear campaigns against the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace, against the positive results of the meetings of President al-Asad with former U.S. President Bush and current U.S. President Clinton in Geneva and Damascus, and against Syria's principled, constant position on peace.

AL-THAWRAH notes that Israel is wrongly trying to deny its responsibility for obstructing the peace process by charging that Syria is responsible, thus launching lies and fabrications against Syria's principled, firm position which adheres to the bases of a just and comprehensive peace. Every now and then, Israel talks about imaginary Syrian-Israeli secret talks that exist only in the ruling Israeli mind that seeks to obstruct the peace process and confuse the Syrian position.

The newspaper adds: Syria is in no need of defending itself against such exposed fabrications, whose malicious intentions are known to everybody. This is because the Syrian position on peace is very clear. Everybody knows this, including the U.S. sponsor.

AL-THAWRAH says Syria has repeatedly said that the basis of peace is Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. This withdrawal entails equitable [mutakafi'ah] and equal [mutasawiyah] security measures on both sides of the 4 June 1967 lines.

The newspaper concludes: If Israel truly wants peace, as it claims, all it has to do is announce clearly and explicitly its acceptance of the foundations of the peace process and commitment to implementing these foundations. Otherwise, Israel will remain fully responsible for the deadlock in the peace process.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH asserts that Syria is famous for the truth, soundness, and firmness of its positions. Syria is also known to work in broad daylight. It has never agreed to any meeting outside the framework of the Madrid conference and the peace talks. Syria is committed to the peace process on the basis of the Madrid conference. Syria is not one of those who are anxious to conclude deals behind the scenes. Syria will never cede or bargain over a grain of soil or any right.

Commentary: Israel Evading 'Requirements of Peace'

JN3108151895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed listeners: The way Israel deals with the peace process has revealed the kind of peace it wants. Israel wants a peace that maintains its occupation of Arab territories, something that would undermine the very bases of the peace process. Moreover, Israel wants a peace that gives it a decisive role in the region's affairs, resources, and future. We do not know why Israel supposes that this is possible to achieve. However, we know that these Israeli intentions, besides being impossible to achieve, actually plant mines in the future of the region. These Israeli illusions might be based on what has been offered to Israel by other Arab parties that have deviated from the objective of a just, comprehensive peace to partial, incomplete, and inequitable solutions that they have signed with Israel. The Arab people have unequivocally

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defined their opinion on these agreements. This opinion is not in favor of these agreements or the parties that signed them.

However, while these partial, incomplete agreements have given Israel an exaggerated sense that it is capable of achieving what it wants, albeit in contravention of international resolutions, it would be greatly deluded if it supposes that those agreements have confiscated the Arab people's opinion or weakened Syria's position in the peace process. Reflecting the Arab nation's aspirations, Syria's position has won unanimous Arab support. At any rate, enough time has passed since the signing of those partial agreements to pinpoint the parties whose positions have been weakened by those agreements. They are known parties. Certainly, Syria and Lebanon are not among them. Moreover, the time that has passed has confirmed the well-known fact that Syria is the key to regional peace, that there is no peace without Syria, and, more specifically, there is no peace without the implementation of Syria's concept of peace. This concept is in line with the UN Security Council resolutions providing for comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories to the 4 June 1967 lines. This is the peace that has been adopted by the Madrid conference and the U.S. initiative and which receives unanimous international support.

Having evaded the principles and requirements of peace, Israel is attempting to conceal that by partial agreements. Because they are not in line with the UN resolutions, these agreements do not recognize the rights of the peoples of the region or their fair demands which are the core of peace. Having done so, will Israel be capable of imposing the peace it wants? Without justice for all parties, the aspired durable peace that is capable of providing security and stability for everyone cannot be achieved.

Minister Interviewed on Eighth 5-Year Plan

JN0109071295 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 22 Jul 95 p 8

[Report by 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Awad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Planning for one year is difficult, but planning for five years is both difficult and complicated. Committees representing all government ministries are currently working on the next five-year plan — 1996-2000. We interviewed Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning, regarding this plan:

[Al-'Awad] Do we have personnel who are capable of planning for such long periods?

[Al-Subay'i] All of us practice planning in one form or another. We must not think that planning is new to human society. On the contrary, Man has been planning for a better life and future since his creation. Recently, planning has become a scientific exercise in all states regardless of their social systems. This systematic and intellectual work inevitably requires highly qualified personnel.

[Al-'Awad] Do we have such personnel in Syria?

[Al-Subay'i] We have individuals with experience, energy, and initiative. We also try through the Institute of Planning for Economic and Social Development and various courses at home and abroad to improve the standard of our planning officials. But, matters do not stop here. Is it possible, for instance, to depend on a few individuals to handle everything dealing with one sector, such as the manufacturing industries, irrigation, or oil? Teamwork is the key to planning. We cooperate with all officials who are responsible for preparing and carrying out plans in the various government departments and organizations as one organized team with a clear mandate and a proper chain of command and powers in preparing and carrying out these plans. To be frank, we are still trying to refine our methods by including the latest developments in planning. However, it is not possible to place the responsibility for planning on the State Planning Board alone. The board obtains its data and initial ideas from the ministries, organizations, and companies. And, when we start planning, we depend on the reports given by the ministries, organizations, and companies themselves. The more accurate and sound the data is, the more successful the plan becomes. We also take into consideration all the available financial and human resources. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Awad] What are the priorities of the next plan?

[Al-Subay'i] The priorities are the same as those of the current and previous plan. Priority is given to agriculture, irrigation and strengthening of the infrastructure. Priority is also given to electricity, drinking water, exploitation of natural resources, and development of the different educational and training institutes. Briefly, our plan will examine all available resources and determine the priorities in light of these resources in accordance with struggler President Hafiz al-Asad's directives which call for a balanced development in all economic and social fields.

[Al-'Awad] What is the public sector's share in the next plan?

[Al-Subay'i] The public sector has been and will continue to be the mainstay of our economy within the

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policy of economic pluralism. The next plan will include the task of overcoming all obstacles facing the public sector. Our work will be directed toward modernizing, preserving, and maintaining the public sector and achieving more cooperation among the public sector companies so that they can overcome any obstacles. We are very keen on improving work conditions in public sector organizations. This calls on all of us to create a better climate for their operation and competitiveness so that they can attain the level they deserve in administrative, industrial, and economic efficiency.

Columnist Questions 'Accuracy' of Plan

JN0109072495 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 24 Jul 95 p 8

["Frankly Speaking" column by 'Abd-al-Fattah al-'Awad: "Where Is the Eighth Plan Leading Us?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Work on the eighth five-year plan is going on in full swing. But, what was the fate of the sixth and seventh five-year plans, and why were they not endorsed. Would the fate of the eighth plan be the same as the that of its predecessors?

These are legitimate questions, especially when we know that a great deal of effort, time, and money are being spent on preparing five-year plans. In any organized work, the important point is the results. Thus, it is our right to wonder about the achievements of the two previous plans and whether they can provide the base for the next plan.

We must also discuss in a very rational manner if we really need such a long-term plan with all the details being worked out now. Working out a five-year plan is not an easy job. Many things are needed to make it successful, and, I believe that currently we do not have all those things. It is not a lack of personnel as much as it is the lack of resources and the proper method of planning that make a five-year plan difficult.

Our method of obtaining data lacks accuracy. Those engaged in planning need more data than that supplied by the planning officials in the various companies and factories. There is also an urgent need to obtain data on the activities of the private sector, its future aims, and present status.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Visiting Sudanese Minister

JN3108164795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1130 today Muhammad Tahir (Illa), Sudanese minister of economy, trade, and tourism [title as heard]. The meeting was attended by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and the Sudanese ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, discussions revolved around bilateral relations.

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Afghanistan

Government Forces Claim Capture of Gereshk District

LD2708175595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Afghan Government spokesman in Peshawar [Pakistan] has claimed that the sub-district of Gereshk, Helmand Province, was captured this morning by government forces.

According to a report by IRNA, sources close to Borhanoddin Rabbani's government announced yesterday that the sub-districts of Nade-ye 'Ali, Nawa, and Qala-ye Musa in Helmand Province, southwest of Afghanistan, have been recaptured from the supporters of the Taleban group. Around 50 people from the Taleban forces were killed and 200 were captured during the fighting.

In another development, a Taleban source in Peshawar also confirmed the attack by the goverment forces in Gereshk but said that the government forces were forced to retreat in a course of a counter-attack by the Taleban.

Hekmatyar Forces Continue To Advance in Lataband

LD2808142995 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] Afghanistan's brave mojahedin continue their advance in Lataband area. A military source of Hezb-e Eslami told a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent in a radio contact that yesterday morning the mojahedin mounted an operation along Lataband road against the coalition administration forces. [Words indistinct] During the operation, a large quantity of arms and ammunition were seized by the mojahedin. No reports have been received on the casualties among the coalition administration armed men. The source added that fighting between the mojahedin and the coalition administration forces goes on in Lataband.

'Intense Fighting' Continues on Salang Highway

LD2908111195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source affiliated to Afghanistan's Jonbesh-e Melli-e Eslami, led by General Dostam, announced that their forces have captured several government positions in the northern part of the Salang highway. Intense fighting between the supporters and opposition of President Rabbani over control of the Salang highway began a month ago and is still continuing.

Should the Salang highway fall to opposition forces, Kabul would be cut off from the northern part of the country. Intense fighting continues in the provinces of Helmand, Baghlan, Bamian, Samangan and Badghis.

Islamic Army Forces Poised To Capture Sarowbi

LD2908175095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic army forces are close to the Sarowbi market and enjoy high morale. After visiting the area, a BAKHTAR correspondent reported to us that by capturing Zardad's battalion and brigade [as heard] in Sarowbi, the strongest base of the Hekmatyar militia in the district, the capturing of the town of Sarowbi is inexorable. The Islamic army forces were strengthening their positions today, and are ready for a resolute attack on the town. The Islamic army forces have advanced 20 km in the direction of Sarowbi from their previous positions in the south and in Lataband, and have captured dozens of the Hekmatyar militia's positions.

'Abdol Ghafur, commander of the 844th Brigade, said to a BAKHTAR correspondent in the frontline: We are ready to capture the Sarowbi market when we receive instructions. Over the past two days my units and the Islamic army's other units have pushed back Hekmatyar's men 20 km. Now we are near the Sarowbi market.

Sharif, a jehadi commander, said: Sarowbi is situated on Kabul-Jalalabad and Kabul-Nejrab road; two hydroelectrical stations, Naghlo and Sarowbi, are also in this area as well as the Hekmatyar militia's last stronghold. By capturing this base, Hekmatyar's all military units will be wiped out, and, God willing, the electricity supply to Kabul city will resume and security will be ensured along Kabul-Jalalabad road. He said: The Islamic army forces will have achieved a great victory when they capture the area.

Rabbani Forces Capture Strategic Areas Near Sarowbi

LD3008173095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jegdalek and Khojase Baba areas have been captured by the Islamic army forces. Quoting armed forces sources, BAKHTAR reported that in the course of a mopping up operation in Sarowbi, this morning the Islamic army forces cleared of the Hekmatyar militia the strategic area of Jegdalek and

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the surrounding areas and Khojase Baba. They are important strategic areas.

The Islamic army forces captured enemy's some fortifications in Tezin hills. During the operations, several of Hekmatyar's men were either killed or wounded. The Islamic army forces destroyed two armored vehicles and captured a number of their heavy weapons around Sarowbi. Military analysts are of the opinion that most of Hekmatyar's capabilities have been exhausted; and before long Sarowbi will be completely occupied by government forces.

Bangladesh

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Air Strikes Against Serbs

BK0109020595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 0100 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has welcomed the NATO and UN force's decision to take military steps against the Bosnian Serbs in response to the Serb attack on civilians in Sarajevo. Terming the NATO air strikes as a (?successful) and desired step, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dhaka last night that this will give a clear signal to Bosnian Serbs that attacks on safe zones will not be tolerated. He said that continued military steps and pressure might be needed to make the Bosnian Serbs agree to arrive at a political settlement.

The spokesman said the political settlement must provide for upholding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia- Herzegovina. He said that many lives could have been saved and the fall of the UN-declared safe zone of Srebrenica could also have been averted if such a step had been taken (?a month) ago.

India

Reportage on Punjab Bombing, Casualties Continues

Details of Blast Updated; Leaders React

BK3108164095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, was killed in a powerful bomb blast in Chandigarh this evening. The blast occurred around 1700 [1130 GMT] at the VIP gate of the civil secretariat when the chief minister was leaving the office. The bomb was planted in a government vehicle. Three commandos, the security superintendent of police of the chief minister, and six others were also killed in the blast. One MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly], Mr. Baldev Singh Pakkakalan, was seriously injured. Our correspondent, G.A. Sidhu, says the blast site presented a ghastly site. Bits of human flesh were seen scattered over a wide area. Windowpanes up to the eighth floor of the secretariat building were broken. The chief minister's car was blown to pieces and two other vehicles were also damaged.

Senior cabinet minister, Mr. Harcharan Singh Brar, has been sworn in as interim chief minister. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the governor, Lieutenant General B.K.N. Chibber, in the Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] today. Later, addressing newsmen Mr. Brar said a seven-day state mourning will be observed in Punjab and schools and offices will be closed tomorrow and the day after under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Mr. Brar said in the assassination of Beant Singh, the state has lost a gallant fighter for peace and secularism. Mr. Brar also said that the cabinet will be sworn in after the seven day mourning period.

The director general of police, Mr. K.P.S. Gill, told newsmen that forensic experts are examining whether the bomb was planted in the car of the chief minister or nearby. Three bulletproof cars were totally damaged in the blast. When asked whether the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] was involved in the blast, he said the ISI is still active and revival of militancy cannot be ruled out.

Sixteen injured persons have been admitted to the PGI Hospital, Chandigarh, including one MLA Baldev Singh. One SP [Superintendent of Police] security of the chief minister, D.K. Tripathy, is also injured. The body of the chief minister will be kept in Chandigarh to allow people to pay last respects. The cremation will be decided after consultation with family members.

A red alert has been sounded in Punjab, Haryana, and the union territory of Chandigarh following the incident. The Chandirgarh police has sealed all exit points to prevent the escape of those responsible for the blast. A number of check posts have been set up in the union territory and a thorough checking of vehicles has been ordered. Patrolling in Chandigarh and in other parts of Punjab and Haryana have been intensified. The Delhi police has also sounded a high alert.

Mr. Beant Singh was born on 19 February 1922 at village Bilaspur in Ludhiana District. After serving in the Army, he started his political career in 1950. In 1969, he became a member of the legislative assembly for the first time from Payal constituency. In 1980, he became a cabinet minister in the Darbara Singh ministry. He took over as president of the Punjab Pradesh [state] Congress-I Committee in March 1986 and became the chief minister on 20 February 1992.

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The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has condemned the assassination of Sardar Beant Singh as a cowardly and heinous act totally against our culture and spirit. Paying tributes to Beant Singh's yeoman service toward building peace and prosperity in Punjab, the president said his martyrdom will further strengthen our resolve to overcome terrorism.

The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, has expressed grief over the assassination of Sardar Beant Singh and others. In a message, he said it is a dastardly act calculated to destabilize the state, which was restored to normalcy by Mr. Beant Singh.

The prime minister has expressed shock at the assassination of the Punjab chief minister. In a message, Mr. Narasimha Rao said such acts of terrorism can only be carried out by people who have taken leave of their senses. Terming it a barbarous act, he said the fight against terrorism will continue with redoubled vigor.

Several political parties have condemned the killing of Mr. Beant Singh. The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, described the attack as brutal and dastardly. Paying tributes to Mr. Singh for the restoration of peace and normalcy, Mr. Gadgil said such assassinations will not lessen the people's determination and will to fight terrorism. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, expressing extreme shock over the killing, said the accident shows that terrorism is still alive and there is no room for any complacency. The former prime minister and the Janata Dal leader, Mr. V.P. Singh, described the assassination as shocking. He said the killing has put a question mark on the claim that the situation in Punjab has returned to normal. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet, described Mr. Beant Singh as a great fighter against terrorism. He said the assassination will have serious repercussions in the state as it could be of encouragement to terrorists. The industry minister, Mr. K. Karunakaran, said such acts have no place in a democratic set up. The information and broadcasting minister, Mr. K.P. Singhdeo, has expressed shock and grief over the killing. The Jammu and Kashmir governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, expressed profound shock over the killing. Expressing grief, the Haryana Chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, said Beant Singh fought against communalism and separatist activities throughout his life. The chief minister announced three days of state mourning in Haryana. The Delhi chief minister, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, described the blast as a cowardly act. The chief ministers of West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have also expressed profound shock at the tragic death of Sardar Beant Singh.

Babbar Khalsa Group Claims Responsibility

BK0109011395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The body of the slain chief minister of Punjab, Mr. Beant Singh, is lying in state at his official residence in Chandigarh to enable people to pay their last respect. The president, the vice president, and the prime minister have grieved the killing. All union ministers, governors, chief ministers, and lieutenant governors have expressed shock over the dastardly act.

The center has announced a state mourning throughout the country for today and tomorrow as a mark of respect. An official announcement in New Delhi last night said all central government offices will remain closed today. Central government offices at the place of funeral, to be decided after consultations with Mr. Beant Singh's family members, will be closed for half a day on the day of the funeral. A state funeral will be accorded to the late chief minister.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, assured the people that the culprits involved in the assassination will be brought to book soon. In his condolence message, he said that the fight against terrorism will continue with redoubled vigor. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said that an inquiry will be ordered into the car bomb blast at Chandigarh in which, besides the chief minister, three commandos and nine others were also killed. He said that the situation in Punjab has been reviewed, and the culprits will be tracked down soon.

The minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, cut short his visit to Surat to chair the meeting of the Home Ministry. Official sources in New Delhi said that a high-level team of officials, including those from the Intelligence Bureau and the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] will be visiting Chandigarh to make an on-the-spot inquiry.

A PTI report from Chandigarh said that the militant outfit, Babbar Khalsa, has claimed the responsibility for the bomb blast. The agency quoting Punjab police sources said that the militant outfit made the claim to a news organization.

As reported, a senior cabinet minister in Punjab, Mr. Harcharan Singh Brar, has taken over as interim chief minister. Talking to newsmen later, Mr. Brar said that a seven-day state mourning will be observed in Punjab, and schools and offices will be closed today and tomorrow under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Mr. Brar said that he has decided to retain the entire council of ministers. A cabinet meeting has been convened this afternoon.

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The Haryana government has also decided to observe a seven-day state mourning. A red alert has been sounded in Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, and the union territories of Chandigarh and Delhi following the bomb blast.

'Hand of Pakistan' Said Involved

BK0109045295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Sep 95

[Commentary by Pushpa Shroff]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The brutal killing of the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Beant Singh, in a powerful bomb explosion in Chandigarh yesterday evening is a grim reminder. It (?warns) us that India should not be complacent in its war against terrorism. The reason why Mr. Singh has been killed is not difficult to understand. His life was a saga of courage. He stood up against those who were bent upon breaking the unity of the country. Mr. Beant Singh kept alive the democratic aspirations of the people of Punjab in the face of armed terrorism. He undertook mass contact programs. On many occasions, for him it was a lonely pursuit. Yet, he was undeterred.

For the Indians, the name Beant Singh meant a crusader against terrorism. He worked with a single-minded devotion to rid the state of the decade-old menace of militancy. For them, his life was precious; for the antinationals, he was an eyesore. That they succeeded in liquidating him does not speak well of our security system. This was yet another instance in which the terrorists were able to strike at their target in a high-security zone.

How do the terrorists manage to reach high-security areas? One obvious reason is the laxity on the part of those guarding; the other is the connivance of at least some of them having access to these areas. The task of the terrorists is made easy with the availability of sophisticated remote control devices. That their wire pullers are across the border is only too well-known.

Babbar Khalsa, an international terrorist outfit, has claimed responsibility for the killing. The terrorist group has admitted that Beant Singh was on the top of his hit list.

Off and on, there have been reports that there is a nexus between the Punjab terrorist outfit, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], and Kashmir militants. These have been openly aided and abetted by Pakistan. This nexus needs to be broken to ensure peace in the country. The killing of Mr. Beant Singh must awaken the nation to widespread threat of terrorism.

There is continuing foreign hostage crisis in the Kashmir Valley. There were bomb blasts in the state in Jammu. The LTTE continues to make its presence felt in Tamil Nadu by one act or the other. Behind most of these activities is the hand of Pakistan. The situation must be dealt with an iron hand. India must free itself from the evil of terrorism. That alone will be a fitting tribute to the martyrdom of Beant Singh.

Andhra Pradesh Minister in Intensive Care, Resigns

BK3108120795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has submitted his resignation. The governor, Mr. Krishan Kant, has accepted it. However, Mr. Krishan Kant has asked Mr. Rama Rao to continue in office till an alternative arrangement is made. A Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] communique issued in the afternoon said that the chief minister handed over his resignation to the governor when he visited Mr. Rama Rao in a private nursing home.

Earlier, in the morning, Mr. Rama Rao was rushed to a private nursing home when he complained of breathlessness. According to a medical bulletin, Mr. Rama Rao is being treated in the intensive medical care unit. Our correspondent adds that his condition is said to be stable.

Governor Kant Invites Naidu To Form Government

BK3108131095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Andhra Pradesh governor, Mr. Krishan Kant, has invited Mr. Chandrababu Naidu to form a new government in the state. The letter of invitation was handed over to Mr. Naidu when he called on the governor in the Raj Bhavan [governor's residence] this evening. According our Hyderabad correspondent, Shujat Ali, Mr. Chandrababu Naidu will be sworn in at noon tomorrow.

Earlier, the chief minister, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, submitted his resignation, which was accepted by the governor. Following his resignation, the state assembly, which met in a special session this evening, adjourned sine die. The speaker, Mr. Ramakrishnudu, declared that there was no need for a vote of confidence as the governor has accepted the resignation of Mr. Rama Rao. A Raj Bhavan communique issued earlier said that the chief minister handed over his resignation letter to the governor when he visited Mr. Rama Rao in a private nursing home. Mr. Rao was rushed to the nursing home this morning following complaints of breathlessness. His condition is reported to be stable.

In New Delhi, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the party has no role in the political

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developments in the Telugu Desam party. Responding to queries from newsmen on its likely impact on the coming general elections, Mr. Gadgil said it is too early to say anything at this juncture.

New Andhra Pradesh Council of Ministers Sworn In

BK0109105695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Andhra Pradesh, an 11-member new council of ministers headed by Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu, has been sworn in. At a brief function in Hyderabad a short while ago, the governor, Mr. Krishan Kant, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the chief minister, eight cabinet ministers, and two ministers of state. The cabinet ministers are: Mr. P. Ashok Gajapati Raju, Mr. T. Divendra Kaul, Mr. A. Madhav Reddy, Mr. K. Vidyadhar Rao, Mr. N. Harikrishna, Mr. C. (Ayyannapadrudu), Mr. S. Satyanarayanan, Mr. D. Sitaraman. The two state ministers are: Mr. G. Nagesh and Mr. K. Srihari.

Army Smashes Communication Center of Kashmiri 'Militants'

BK3108162695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Thuptan Chewang has been unanimously elected leader of the Congress-I party in the Leh Autonomous Hill Development Council. He was elected at a meeting of the newly elected members of the party in Leh today. Later, talking to our correspondent, Mr. Chewang said his priority will be to provide basic facilities like health care, drinking water, and education to the people.

The Army has smashed an important communication center set up by the militants in the Kandi forest area of Baramula District. Two powerful wireless sets, three general purpose antennas, five remote control devices, and other materials were recovered from the site. An Army spokesman said in Srinagar today that the militants were using the communication center to control their messages in Kupwara and Baramula sectors, besides passing their information across the Line of Control.

Spokesman Denies Al-Faran Issues One-Day Deadline

BK3108141295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 31 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Srinagar, India, Aug 31 (AFP) — Moslem rebels holding four Western tourists in Kashmir for nearly two months hardened their tone Thursday [31 August] but an official spokesman denied that the captors had issued a fresh ultimatum.

"We are in constant touch with the Al-Faran for the release of the tourists," the spokesman said here.

Informed sources reiterated the Al-Faran rebel group had late Wednesday issued a one-day ultimatum to Indian negotiators to spell out whether the government would meet their demand for the release of 15 jailed militants.

It did not however renew threats to kill the two Britons, one American and one German they are holding. The group has already killed a fifth hostage from Norway.

The official spokesman denied that the captors had issued a fresh deadline. "Reports of a deadlock in the talks are not true," he added.

He said no police troops had been deployed to hunt for the militants who reportedly told negotiators that they were fed up with the government's procrastination, describing it as a "waste of time."

An informed source however maintained that Al Faran had told the government they wanted an answer to their demand within 24 hours.

"Today's talks will be crucial," another source said, adding the government was awaiting a call from the Al-Faran on a pre-selected radio frequency.

The sources said officials had set up a communications facility atop a 1,000-foot (300-metre) hill in Srinagar to contact the group. [passage omitted]

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Criticizes U.S. 'Provocations'

LD0109105095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In his Tehran Friday prayer sermons today, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani provided a brief evaluation of the country's political, economic, and cultural circumstances. The acting Friday prayer leader of Tehran said: A short comparison between the past and the present will reveal the dimensions of transformations that have taken place in Iran.

That is to say a comparison between an Iran which before the revolution was dependent on foreigners in all areas, was devoid of any will to manage its own affairs, and was largely made up of deprived and impoverished areas, is now a country which politically is very cohesive, has very bright economic prospects

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and in terms of culture, is a focal point for all those who in today's turbulent world are intent on seeking the truth.

He added: Achievements in various fields — such as oil, petrochemicals, natural gas, construction, transport, defense industries, medicines and medical equipment — are highly noteworthy. There have also been advances far beyond expectations in communications, health and medical treatment, alleviation of poverty and deprivation, pursuit of social justice, and reconstruction. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani explained that the advances have been achieved under circumstances where a large part of all the investments in different areas have not yet produced their expected returns.

There are huge projects underway in the areas of energy, communications, mining, agriculture, housing, medical insurance and finally the regulations of the market. We will be witnessing the desirable outcome of these projects in the coming years.

The president said all these achievements were the result of collective efforts by a nation and a political system which together has become more vigilant as a result of the various conspiracies of the world arrogance. They have, moreover, become more determined to work together shoulder to shoulder toward attaining greater self- sufficiency and even greater independence from the outside world.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani added:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] I hope that with the picture that they have painted of the four periods — before the revolution, the early days of the revolution, after the First [Five year Development] Plan, and outlook of the Second Plan — our nation, with alertness and hope and by being present on the scene, as in the past, will continue to strive so that we can prove to the world that religion, and especially Islam, and celestial inspiration, is capable of managing the affairs of today's mankind, and that Iran is one of the places which, because of its natural resources, is a suitable base for implementing that thesis. Thank God, our experience has been very, very rich so far, and the road has been made smooth. And with help, support, cooperation, and alertness in the face of enemy plots we will be able to take the next steps in the Second Plan. [crowd chants "God is great" and other slogans] [end recording]

The President then reviewed the global situation and the developments in the Persian Gulf, the Balkans and Palestine. Referring to the increase in America's military presence in the region he said: America's provocations have made the region unsafe. This time too, it is clear that they have come to the Persian Gulf not to help the people but to safeguard their own interests.

The Balkans do not have a clear outlook either. Although NATO has once again put on a show of attacking Serb positions, experience has shown that there has never been any good intentions in the matter.

On the occasion of Cooperative Week the temporary Friday imam of Tehran said: Cooperatives are manifestations of social justice in the country. He thanked the earnest personnel who, with the support of the leader [Khamene'i], the government and the nation, are striving to serve the people and elevate the country.

U.S. Military Moves Seen as 'Inflammatory'

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[Editorial: "The United States—Riding the Waves"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. U.S. actions in the region have reached an inflammatory level. The activities of the U.S. forces stationed at Incirlik base in Turkey have intensified and the extent of reconnaissance flights and patrols over the Kurd-inhabited northern Iraq has expanded conspicuously.

In addition, the U.S. military presence has also been reinforced in the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean. U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry has stepped up propagandist pressure against Baghdad. He has warned Saddam against even contemplating any missile attacks or military operations against Jordan, stating that if he did not desist, the United States would use its missile systems to defend Jordan.

Can the Iraqi regime in its present state even be considered a threat to Jordan? All facts indicate that Saddam faces immense difficulties even in finding reliable officials for his cadres [preceding word in English] in order to safeguard the regime and to surmount the current growing crisis. Naturally, under such circumstances Iraq cannot even think of military operations against Jordan.

By even discussing such issues in its political propaganda, the United States is pursuing specific objectives. First, it seeks to cover up the fact that the current circumstances took it by surprise. It also wishes to convey the impression that it still has the initiative and is taking an active approach and not a defensive one. The fact is that Washington is immensely apprehensive of divulging the secrets of the two Iraqi wars to the public

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and does not favor revealing the U.S.' direct role in the eight-year Iraqi war against Iran and the covert U.S.-Iraqi deals in the Kuwait war.

This is precisely why the United States insists that it is keeping direct watch on all the elements who have abandoned Saddam. The visits by high-level Pentagon, CIA, and military officials to the region and their hasty meetings with Husayn Kamil Hasan and all the other escapees from Baghdad has greater meaning when viewed in this context. Even though the United States considers its basic interests as conflicting with Saddam today, no one can forget the direct and persistent role of the United States in the imposed eight-year long war with Iran.

Another important point is that the United States is inclined to take this opportunity to project the region's situation as being critical in order to justify its military presence and to increase its intelligence and military activities in the region. This is important because Washington is closely following all future developments, possible actions, and reactions in Baghdad. This will give it the opportunity to project itself as the center of gravity for all decisions regarding Iraq's present and future.

In other words, Washington seeks to ride the waves in the current Iraqi crisis in order to depict the recent developments and their repercussions as having occurred with its control and permission and for its own expediency.

There is serious doubt as to whether the recent events in Baghdad will have immediate and effective consequences and result in the toppling of the Baghdad regime. Even though the fugitive pawns had prominent and powerful positions in the Iraqi hierarchy, Saddam will certainly try to contain the crisis by resorting to greater violence and atrocities.

There is some evidence to indicate that Washington has given Baghdad the green light for Saddam's renewed domination over the Baghdad situation. By focusing its propaganda on the possibility of an Iraqi attack on Jordan, it is seeking to divert opinion in the region and the world in order to portray itself as containing Saddam and persuading him not to attack Jordan. Under current circumstances, Baghdad can hardly be considered even a slight threat to Jordan. Such threats are merely based on unprincipled hypotheses.

King Husayn's propagandist posture today of adopting a stance against Saddam is more cosmetic and based on the objectives of consolidating his position before Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and is intended to compensate for previous stances.

It seems highly unlikely that Jordan will ever activate an anti- Saddam front, especially since the absconders are accomplices in Saddam's crimes and no one will be tempted to collude with them against him. But will Saddam emerge unscathed from this crisis and its fallout? In the world of politics and in a land that constantly witnesses amazing developments perhaps a new and unexpected phenomenon will occur shortly.

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